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THURSDAY, MAY 1ST, 2014

In Business Update
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Van About Town
See Pages 24-26

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are pictured by Mike Wilcock at Atlantic College yesterday. (See next week for more pictures).

'A FANTASTIC YOUNG OFFICER' says CO

Local man killed in the Afghanistan helicopter crash was a 'rising star'

A COWBRIDGE man was among five servicemen who died in southern Afghanistan when their helicopter crashed.

Captain Thomas Clarke, 30, a former Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil, was also a member of the local ATC from the age of 13 to 15.

Another man who died, Lance Cpl Oliver Thomas from Brecon, also had strong connections to the Vale, particularly in the farming community.

The crash took place on April 26, and the MoD confirmed the names of those who lost their lives as: Captain Thomas Clarke, Army Air Corps; Flight Lieutenant Rakesh Chauhan, Royal Air Force; Warrant Officer Class 2 Spencer Faulkner, Army Air Corps; Corporal James Walters, Army Air Corps and Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas, Intelligence Corps.

Group Captain Richard Maddison, Station Commander RAF Odiham said: "I am extremely saddened to hear of the loss of Captain Thomas Clarke,

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Flight Lieutenant Rakesh Chauhan, Warrant Officer Spencer Faulkner and Corporal James Walters, all who served at Royal Air Force Odiham.

"My deepest sympathies are with their families and friends at this most difficult time, and also with the family of Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas, who was not from Royal Air Force Odiham, but who was also on the Lynx aircraft.

"It was only a week before the accident that I visited their unit in Afghanistan, and flew in a Lynx with Captain Clarke, Warrant Officer Faulkner and Corporal Walters. It was an absolute pleasure to fly with them and to discuss their work; it was also incredibly reassuring to meet such professional and enthusiastic members of their unit".

The MoD statement said: "Captain Tom Clarke was born in Cardiff. After studying for his A-Levels, he gained a degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Birmingham in 2006. He enlisted as an Army Officer in May 2007, undertaking Officer Training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. He graduated in April 2008, commissioning into the Army Air Corps as a Pilot.

"He completed a short tour of Afghanistan prior to commencing flying training in July 2008.

"He completed his helicopter pilot training in May 2010 and was posted to 661 Squadron and subsequently 652 Squadron to fly the Lynx.

"Captain Clarke was posted to RAF Odiham in October 2013 and has deployed on numerous occasions in support of training exercises.

"An ambitious and competent young officer, he had a very bright and promising future in the Army".

His Commanding Officer said of him: "Captain Thomas Clarke was a fantastic young officer, full of life and immensely committed to his soldiers and friends."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

CAPTAIN TOM CLARKE.

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New store to open in town

SHOPFITTERS are at work preparing for a new store in the four units adjoining the Waitrose car park – the third of four to be occupied.

Rohan, an outdoor clothing company, will be the newest tenant and the franchisee, Mr Alan Rose, told The GEM that a firm opening date had not yet been set.

He added that he expected the store to employ five or six people.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. ***Letters and e-mails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number***. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Schoolboy's view on Darren Farm

I WOULD like to make my views known concerning the possibility of up to 390 houses being built on the site of Darren Farm.

I have lived in Cowbridge nearly all my life; it is, in my opinion, the nicest place on earth and I would not want to live anywhere else.

I certainly do not want to see more and more cars coming into the town. There are not enough parking spaces for the existing cars – we have too many already.

If, in time, this development goes ahead, I feel that it will be the death of Cowbridge. It will do nothing to preserve or improve the town. At present, I am in year-7 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School and experience the numbers of school buses going to and from the school each day.

The traffic congestion that they contribute to would get worse.

Cowbridge town was built in the age of the horse and cart, and was never designed to take an ever-increasing number of cars and other vehicles.

If there is a proven demand for additional houses, they must be built on another site and the fields on the approaches to Cowbridge must be preserved for present and future generations to enjoy.

Owen Edwards
(aged 12 years).

Open or closed?

I HAVE just spotted this sign (above) near the road works behind the Town Hall, Cowbridge. Presumably, you have to agree to the closure before gaining access!
Jeremy Atkinson, Cowbridge.

'Authorities have a long way to go on animal welfare'

I WAS interested to see an article written by Coun Neil Moore in The GEM regarding an Animal Welfare Charter, and how the Vale Council is keen to comply with the welfare standards.

I certainly hope this will progress. The fly-grazing of horses in the Vale, and the lack of equine passports, and also puppy farming, is horrific.

In my view, puppy farming should be totally banned. The Welsh Government has certainly not *fully* addressed the situation regarding horses, and there is still a lot of suffering.

There are two other areas of concern, I would like to mention: Using animals in circuses is out of date and should not be allowed any more. I also believe that pet shops get licences far too easily.

I think the Welsh Government and councils have a long way to go until they can claim they are seriously tackling the issue of animal welfare.

Sue Thomas,
Penarth

PLANNERS PIGGY IN THE MIDDLE...

I AM one of many Vale citizens who have chosen to live in a rural community which is currently threatened by the biggest change in its history.

This threat has evolved because the Vale Council needs to comply with planning policy Wales' target for building new homes.

Vale planners are caught between the confrontation and confusion created by our elected representatives at every level.

I do not envy planners their task, especially when budgets are being tightened reducing, even undermining, their ability and willingness to defend appeals.

But they have a legal obligation to do so, especially when there are robust reasons for recommending that an application be rejected – as is the case in Colwinston, with the Redrow Homes Ltd application to build 62 new houses.

In 1988, council planners rejected development on this site, because access is next to the school entrance/exit, it extended the village boundary beyond reasonable limits, and it is useable farmland.

In 2014, the same points apply – plus the sewerage system for existing homes overflows discharge to the public road – a fact acknowledged by Welsh Water.

If approved, it could pave the way for the six other proposed alternative residential site developments in Colwinston that would triple the size of the village to potentially 450 homes.

It is our councillors, our AMs, MPs and the like who will be ultimately accountable for not taking adequate care and consideration of their citizens' democratic rights, whatever their political persuasion.

Eventually, a planning crimes tribunal may form part of an election manifesto – if only to appease the enraged electorate's feelings of being trampled underfoot by planning bureaucracy.

Paul H Simpson,
Colwinston.

How to make affordable houses unaffordable

Paul Simpson was quite right (GEM letters, April 17) when he highlights the strange policy of the Vale planners to penalise the building of new houses in the western Vale with a 35 per cent 'tax'.

In recent years when money has been tight, many people have successfully built their own houses.

This is because when you build your own house (and banks are often very helpful by providing staged building loans), it is possible to save about 25 per cent of the price charged by builders. This makes it very attractive to build your own.

In the Vale of Glamorgan, our planning regulations contained in the Local Development Plan Policy MG4 (Affordable Housing), effectively means that affordable housing becomes once again unaffordable.

The planners are effectively penalising anyone who wants to build their own home themselves.

An own goal by the planners, I think!

Ed Lewis,
Colwinston.

Music in ideal rural setting

WHAT a pleasure to read your review of the latest Coed Hills concert at St Hilary.

In Cowbridge, we have been fortunate to have so many good choirs and when the Cowbridge Music Festival was launched, we were also able to listen to professional musical concerts.

Now we have the Coed Hill concerts; professional small groups of musicians playing their choice of music in the excellent acoustic setting of Coed Hills.

It felt such a privilege to hear such quality in a setting for which the music was probably originally composed, i.e. intimate and relaxed.

And how good to see so many young people in the appreciative audience.

Stuart Hodson,
Llanblethian.

LDP – Why not Llandow Newydd?

FROM reading recent letters in The GEM, and talking to local residents, there appears to be a great deal of support for the Llandow Newydd development put forward as an alternative site in the LDP.

Given that the LDP is increasing the number of houses in the Vale by 25 per cent, a new development would seem like a logical choice.

So why is it that it has no support with the planners or the council?

As far as I understand, the fact that it was ruled against in a judicial review some years ago, does not stop it from being incorporated in the LDP and so far I have not heard of any technical reason why it can't be considered.

I would ask councillors to canvass the opinions of their electorate, to see if there is indeed a lot of support for this development and maybe they should, therefore, support it.

I was very impressed recently with the openness of so many councillors who went so quickly into print in The GEM to inform us why joining Cardiff Council would be a bad idea.

I would be grateful if these same councillors, or even the head of planning, went into print in the same way to explain to their voters – why not Llandow Newydd?

Mike Carney,
Cowbridge.

Llandow new town needed

THE Barry&Vale Friends of the Earth were pleased to see so many people throughout the Vale, from Cowbridge to Dinas Powys, objecting to the add-on, green field developments suggested in the Local Development Plan.

Agreement on a planned, sustainable new town at Llandow is evident and should be agreed by all parties, not just the architects and builders – but the Welsh Government, local council communities and, most importantly, environmental advisors, to ensure the least damage to the environment of the Vale.

Bus and train services would have to be improved, with subsidies for public transport increased, not cut back.

Train stations at St Athan and Llandow are long overdue, along with the Llysworney by-pass.

We all live in congested traffic zones and have no wish to see further congestion in the Vale.

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on May 6 in the Castle Hotel, Barry.

Keith Stockdale
(Barry&Vale Foe Co-ordinator)

Why the rise in Foodbanks?

LAST week's excellent article on foodbanks in The GEM by Caroline Sarll was a real eye opener on what life is for many people under this Tory-led Government.

It does not accept any blame for the increase in foodbank use and says there is no link between welfare reform or any Government policy and the increase in people needing help.

Could someone explain why in the last year of the Labour Government only 41,000 people used foodbanks, but now four years after Mr Cameron limped into Downing Street, propped up by the Lib Dems, their use has risen to 913,138 in the year 2013 – 2014?

This is a Government that ignores the disabled, the poor, and the most vulnerable in society, but protects and helps the rich.

We need a Government that stands up for everyone, not just the privileged few.

G Smith,
Llantwit Major.

'Cash not reward for job well done'

IN recent media comments, the Vale Council's cabinet member for transportation implied that additional Welsh Government funding of £100,000 for buses was recognition for the Vale's "already innovative approach to community and rural transport".

On the contrary, this money is being made available to two Welsh councils who have suffered most as a result of the Labour cuts of over £24 million to bus subsidies.

This money is not a reward for a job well done – it's a thinly veiled apology from the Welsh Labour Government for devastating bus services in the Vale. After pressure from Vale residents and local Conservatives, we are finally seeing steps being taken to improve the situation.

Unfortunately, it is asking a lot of the Vale Council to turn bus services around with this sum – akin to sending a firefighter into a forest fire armed only with a damp flannel.

I wish the cabinet member good luck. Many Vale residents rely on a reliable and comprehensive public transport network.

Andrew RT Davies AM
(Welsh Conservative leader).

'Give Valerie big Welsh welcome!'

VALERIE Carter, an ex-pat, would be pleased to see as many as possible of her friends and school friends at The Cherry Orchard, Barry Road, Barry, on May 9 at 7.30pm.

Valerie emigrated to Canada when she was 14 years old, she went to Holton Road School and lived in George Street Barry.

She was home last year and much to her disappointment did not meet up with anyone, so let's give her a big Welsh welcome!

For any questions or details please contact Morgan.Tyley@btinternet.com or ashie1@ntlworld.com.

Vera Tyley,
Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL MAY 8)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
01 Thur	08.34	9.7	20.49	9.7
02 Fri	09.12	9.6	21.24	9.4
03 Sat	09.49	9.2	21.59	9.1
04 Sun	10.22	8.8	22.37	8.7
05 Mon	10.59	8.3	23.16	8.2
06 Tues	11.43	7.8		
07 Wed	00.05	7.6	12.44	7.4
08 Thur	01.11	7.4	13.57	7.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Five men die in Afghanistan

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

His Commanding Officer continued: "In the short time he had served in the unit he had proven to be an exceptional aviator and forthright leader who always placed himself at the centre of squadron life. His loss will be keenly felt both at RAF Odiham and within the wider Army Air Corps.

"Our thoughts and sympathy are with his wife, family and friends at this most difficult of times".

The Commander for the deployed Lynx Detachment said: "Captain Tom Clarke was a hard working, loyal and gifted aviator who was a privilege to command. His brightness, character, humility and charm will be remembered by all.

"He brought a smile to people's faces and I was fortunate enough to have worked with him at RAF Odiham as well as in Afghanistan. A rising star of the Army Air Corps his loss will be deeply felt and I feel honoured and privileged to have called him a friend.

"He will be deeply missed by the Air Detachment and by his Squadron. My thoughts and prayers are with his loving wife Angie and his family and friends at this difficult time".

His family has paid the following tribute: *"We cannot express enough our devastation at the loss of a truly wonderful husband, son, brother and friend.*

"Tom brought so much happiness and love to everyone he knew with his sparkling blue eyes and cheeky smile. He had an absolute passion for life and was the best part of us; we are all poorer today without him. 'We carry your heart, we carry it in our heart'".

Dr Terry Prosser, a former squadron officer with Cowbridge Air Training Corps, said: "The squadron wishes to record its great sadness at the loss of Captain Tom Clarke. Tom was a Cadet with the squadron from 1997 to 1999, and he is remembered by all who knew him as a totally dedicated and enthusiastic member.

"He was consistently polite and good-humoured, and was a pleasure to work with. He will be greatly missed by his contemporaries and, especially, by the squadron staff."

Tom Clarke was also well-known at Cowbridge Rugby Club. A club spokesman issued the following tribute: *"The club was shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Tom Clarke on active service in Afghanistan.*

"Tom played for the minis, juniors and also Cowbridge first team. He was a tough, uncompromising player on the pitch but a perfect gentleman off it.

Cpl Oliver Thomas

"He will leave a huge hole in the lives of his wife, Angie, parents Bruce and Denise, brother and sister in law, Simon and Sally and all of his many friends.

"As the best of the best, Tom, we salute you".

Cowbridge RFC played Abercwmboi last night (Wednesday) and the teams observed a munute's silence.

Vale AM Jane Hutt said: "My deepest sympathies are with the family and friends of Capt Thomas Clarke for the loss of this courageous and outstanding man, who served his country so bravely."

Lance Corporal Oliver Thomas (26) was born in Brecon, Powys. He joined the Army Reserve in June 2011, and after moving to London he joined 3 Military Intelligence Battalion in July 2012.

He volunteered to be mobilised from the Army Reserves for deployment to Afghanistan and arrived on December 11, 2013 to be part of the United Kingdom's contribution to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

His Officer Commanding said: "Lance Corporal Oli Thomas was the embodiment of his generation: bright, gifted with an enquiring mind and laser focussed on the task in-hand.

"The bonus for us was that he was also blessed with a natural flair and the happy-knack of always being able to raise a smile with his keen sense of wit. The future and uncertainty did not disturb him. He only saw opportunity ahead and, ultimately, it was his irresistible addiction to the life-force that took him away.

"It is with regret and to my loss that I did not know Oli for longer – but in only a short time he made an immediate and lasting impression. His absence has left an enormous gap in a close-knit team. We will remember him.

His family paid the following tribute: *"Oliver was a truly amazing person, living his life to the full, while fulfilling some of his many dreams and adventures. He was very much loved and will be greatly missed by his grieving family and friends".*

Cowbridge school choir has a big day coming up!

Members of Iolo Morganwg Choir, photographed by Mike Wilcock.

TV VIEWERS around the UK watched entranced last Sunday (April 27) as primary schools battled it out in the Songs of Praise junior choir competition – and Ysgol Iolo Morganwg made it through to the final on May 11.

As the final was recorded the day after the semi-final, pupils, parents and staff already know the result, but so far no one is saying!

For the TV viewers, it would seem that the main competition will come from another Welsh school, Llangennech.

When The GEM visited the school just before the choir set off to the BBC studios, music teacher Eleri Roberts told The GEM that she felt the choir's second song – the one they would sing if they reached the final – was a real gem.

So, Cowbridge residents will have to wait until May 11 to find out if the judges share that opinion.

The song, 'Cydiwn Ddwylo', is in Welsh and translates as 'Holding Hands'.

The headteacher at Iolo Morganwg, Rhian Williams, was giving nothing away when The GEM spoke to her this week. She said it had been an exciting weekend for the children, and that they were thrilled that two of the three finalists were Welsh.

Strangely, the first time that she had been able to hear the other schools sing in the semi-final was last Sunday.

She explained: "We were kept in a holding area and went onto the set to sing. We didn't hear any of the other schools sing, so when we went on to the final, we didn't really know what we were up against".

She added that they got on really well with Llangennech, and even gave an impromptu joint rendition of 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau' while they were waiting.

Next Sunday (May 4) the secondary school choirs will compete in their final, and then on May 11 – win or lose. it will be Iolo Morganwg's big day!

Man who survived coma praises work of the Mind charity

Report by **TIM CHAPMAN**

TEN years ago, Nathan Hughes from Llantwit Major was the victim of an assault, that ended with him in a coma and fighting for his life.

Nathan (42), who is still recovering, wants to thank a local organisation for its invaluable support over the years.

He said: "Mind in the Western Vale have been an absolutely fantastic support to me."

A decade ago Nathan was an aspiring artist with plans for a new book, but that dream came to a shuddering halt one night.

"I'd been to a pub in town and decided to have some chips on the way home.

"While I was at the chip shop I was attacked. The assailant banged my head on the counter.

"The attack continued outside and I hit my head on the concrete as I fell down which did most of the damage.

"The ambulances were busy and I had to be taken to hospital in the back of the police car – the police were really good.

Nathan makes regular visits to Mind in the Vale.

"I was in the Princess of Wales Hospital for two months – much of the time in an induced coma.

"It was fifty-fifty as to whether I would survive."

For Nathan's parents, Susan and Edward it was a dreadful time.

"My parents were a fantastic support. I couldn't wish for better."

When he came out of the coma Nathan embarked on bizarre psychological and physical journey.

"When I was brought round, I was like a little child. All of my senses and perceptions had changed.

"Everything was completely new. I had to learn to walk again, and grow-up again.

"I'm not sure that they knew what to do with me. I went to Neath Hospital for specialist care.

"At times I was like a toddler with a short attention span. It was like seeing the world in a new way.

"It was an incredibly stressful time. Neither the doctors nor my parents knew what kind of recovery I would make."

The Headway Charity in Cardiff, which helps people recovering from brain injuries, proved an invaluable support.

"They helped me to get out and meet other people who had similar experiences to mine.

"Some had been in vehicle collisions, some had suffered strokes or falls, and at least three were the victims of assaults.

"In Rookwood Hospital, Headway was more or less open every day of the week.

"There was a recreation hall where people could get involved in activities and listen to talks. We went to Cornwall for a week.

"It all helped in building back my confidence."

Nathan even displayed his art work in a 'picture space' at Headway.

In recent years, Mind in the Western Vale at Crawshay Drive in Llantwit Major has become the mainstay of his on-going recovery.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 29)

A time when shopworkers were on duty 16 hours day

AT the April meeting, members of Cowbridge Friendship Club were transported back in time, with the help of Allan Underhill, who gave an excellent talk with slides on departmental stores.

As mentioned, many large departmental stores are, sadly, now just a memory. Locally we have lost Evans Roberts, David Morgan and David Evans.

London's list includes Derry & Toms and Whiteleys. Derry & Toms, however, which was opened in 1933, still has its roof gardens, together with the Babylon Restaurant.

The roof gardens were the dream child of the vice president of Barkers, Trevor Bowen, who employed landscape architect Ralph Hancock to realise his vision. The roof gardens employ over 100 personnel, some of whom have been working there for over 30 years.

Departmental store, Whiteleys, by 1890 employed over 6,000 staff with the majority living in male and female dormitories, where they had to abide by 176 rules and working from 7am to 11pm, six days a week.

William Whiteley claimed he could provide anything from a pin to an elephant. He was murdered in 1907 by his alleged illegitimate son.

Crafts created by members during their March meeting can be viewed in Cowbridge library during May, and contrary to the last report where it was stated these items could not be bought for any price, members have now reconsidered and have stated if the price was right they would be prepared to sell!

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month, so if you or someone you know would like to join with transport provided please call 01656 668446 to find out more.

Pat Smith, Leader.

VILLAGE CHURCHES (AND SCHOOL CHOIR) PRESENT PASSION PLAY FOR EASTER

PHOTOGRAPHS by **IAN DIXON**

AFTER a break of more than two decades, the church and chapel in Peterston-super-Ely combined to present a village Passion Play.

Members of St Peter's Church and Croes-y-Parc Chapel, boosted by choir members from the local junior school, performed six Stations of the Cross at sites around the village.

Starting at the chapel, the players – and an audience of more than 150 – made their way through the village, before finishing in the church community hall, where hot cross buns and coffee were served.

The play was skillfully adapted by Gill Jones of Croes-y-Parc, and professionally produced by Helen Timms from St Peter's.

LOCAL ROTARY VOLUNTEER REPORTS...

Turkey on less than $5 a day!

by ANDY BANKS

Teaching in Kocaeli.

A LARGE brown snake suddenly appeared out of the bushes by the side of the path, paused, hissed, and then wriggled back the way it had come.

It happened so quickly that most of the Turkish students didn't see it but they knew something was going on from the couple of shrieks that the girls just in front of me made.

But that was nothing to worry about; I was more concerned about the next ten kilometres of walking back to İzmit, through the forests of low trees on a stony path which overlooked the township far below.

After half an hour we had already crawled through quite a few barbed wire fences in the cool, dry morning air and seen the scrape marks in the turf where wild pigs had left their mark and a couple of hours later, we stopped for lunch, to take in the view and refresh ourselves.

I was pleased to be offered fruit, nuts and bottled water (the nuts were unshelled) and noted that nobody was drinking canned drinks or eating chocolate.

The students weren't smoking, they all seemed slim and fit and full of energy. Even when we'd finished the walk in the early afternoon sun, there was still a lot of energy in the group. Were all Turkish students like this group? I mused. These didn't seem like the students back home in Britain.

I had volunteered my services as the teacher of spoken English for three weeks at the University of Kocaeli, by İzmet, in Turkey.

I had never been to Turkey before; I spoke not a word of Turkish, I didn't know any of the people who would be looking after me, or where I would be staying and I was paying for myself.

Now what could possibly go wrong? But I also knew that the Rotary Club of Kocaeli-Gölcük would be looking after me throughout my stay, because this was a Rotary project I had first noticed when trawling through the website in late January. I had a feeling it would all turn out okay. And so it did.

My accommodation was a room in a downtown hotel in Kocaeli, right in the middle, about 200 metres from the mosque.

There were calls to prayer five times a day, with the first one being at half past five in the morning. I never overslept.

My room was basic, and obviously had held some interesting guests before me. I found a screwdriver, a hammer, an umbrella and, on top of the wardrobe, a small dagger and some bits of hair. I did a thorough check around after I found the dagger, in case there was something else I really ought to know about in the room which might later turn out to be very important – but fortunately, found nothing else.

The view from my window was uninspiring, being the backs of hotel blocks and offices.

For three weeks, I would have breakfast every morning at the Bosnian bakery, 'Boşnak Börekçi', around the corner. Breakfast was tea without milk, with what looked like little sausage rolls but filled with spinach or sour cheese or mincemeat.

I always had a cheerful welcome. "Good morning, Teacher!" And I would sit down amongst the early morning diners, who were drinking glasses of tea, smoking and watching the news on the big-screen TV.

After breakfast, I would take the service bus up to the university, perched high in the hills, and see what the English department had got for me that day. There were some subjects I was told not to talk about to the students. No sex, no religion, no politics and no Ataturk, please. The founder of the modern Turkish state, with his omnipresent picture, next to a Turkish flag, was not deemed a suitable subject for discussion.

How I spent my day varied. Some days I was very busy, with class after class, sometimes with three, and sometimes with 20 students, all bemused by a teacher who spoke English in a different way from what they were used to, and what's more, spoke no Turkish at all. The fact I could get by in English, French, German, Spanish and maybe Welsh didn't mean much to people who only spoke Turkish.

And at the end of the day, I would climb onto the bus that took me back to my room in Kocaeli, and fall asleep for an hour before going out for a meal at a restaurant over the road, which served nothing but traditional Turkish food and where they spoke no English.

Pickled red cabbage, green peppers, tomatoes, rice, pancakes, spicy meatballs, chicken kebabs and tiny, pale green peppers that burst with a nuclear intensity in your mouth became my evening meal.

After all that, I would be back in my room and be fast asleep by ten pm, dreaming of cool, wet Wales under an urban Turkish sky.

There were several invitations to dine with my hosts, and I had some very fine meals indeed. The tables would be groaning under the weight of the food, and the company was excellent.

Obviously, the invitations only came from English speakers, but the Turkish hospitality was memorable, and we talked well into the night, and not surprisingly discovered we shared a lot of common ground.

It's just that some of the problems which seem so far away to us are much closer to them, and they worry like we do what will happen next.

I did manage a couple of days sightseeing in İstanbul, seeing the Hagia Sofia and the Blue Mosque, but I didn't go to Turkey to do tourist things.

I went to help out with the English department at Kocaeli and try to get to know a little bit about the real Turkey.

I met some very nice people, who were very hospitable. Thousands of miles away from home, and there were these people I'd never met before the beginning of April who were hugging me like a long-lost friend.

The warmth of my welcome in Turkey was wonderful. And the country itself was a feast for my senses.

I will never forget the noise, smells and bright colours of Kocaeli market in the late afternoon; the chaotic, honking, meandering traffic at rush hour; the shops which spilled out onto the pavement selling office furniture, groceries, shovels or maybe even firearms; the infinite numbers of pavement cafés serving glasses of tea and sweet biscuits – and the rich aroma of roasted meats; and the calls to prayer drifting above the busy streets from the minarets, five times a day in a cascade of exotic harmonies. *Andy Banks lives in Cowbridge.*

Penllyn Bridge Club News

PENLLYN Bridge Club results for April were as follows:

Thursday, April 3 16 pairs – First: L and P Edwards, 59.38 per cent; second: J Ilsley and J Lord, 58.91 per cent; third: C Impey and J Evans, 57.86 per cent.

Thursday, April 10 18 pairs – First: S Kennedy and A Evans, 66.48; second: B Easterbrook and M East, 58.24; third: M and D Stephenson, 56.82 .

Thursday, April 17 – First: J Illsley and J Lord, 67.87; second: M Wallis and G Roberts 63.21; joint third: G and A Wilde, 57. 14.

Thursday, April 24 – First round Robert Brown Cup 21 pairs – First: G Roberts and M Wallis, 64.44; second: H and M Ruttley, 56.67; third: C and J Nunn, 54.29.

The Robert Brown Cup for 2013/14 was presented to Joyce Hollway and Ian Dunglinson by the club treasurer Helen Ruttley.

Share your photographic memories

Digital Heritage Day

Thursday 15th May

Drop-in between 10am and 4pm

at Llantwit Major Library

Do you have old photographs of Llantwit Major or the surrounding areas?
Old family shots of events in the town?
Come along to Llantwit Major Library to share your memories and photographs.

Call us on 01446 792700 for further details

No need to give up your photographs - we will scan them and return the original to you on the same day. The copies will be added to the Vale Libraries site and to the People's Collection Wales site giving everyone the chance to learn about the history of our area.

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Easter treat for Follow Your Dreams charity

Pictured with Tim is staff member Veronica.

FUNERAL director Tim Jones of Pontyclun Funeral Services, met the staff of Church Village-based charity Follow Your Dreams to present Easter eggs donated by people in Pontyclun and district.

Follow Your Dreams supports children and young adults to achieve a cherished wish.

Tim said: "Pontyclun Funeral Services are delighted to help support the fantastic work of the team at Follow Your Dreams, which provides a superb service for their young clients and their families."

Bowling club's new rinks

CLUB captains Kay Edwards and Norman Wilkinson were the first to try out the refurbished rinks at Cowbridge Bowling Club – the first home match will be played next week.

The club is holding free coaching sessions this month for any potential new members. All are welcome, particularly those who have played other sports.

If interested, why not give it a try and contact Michael Bradley on 01446 773289 for further details. **MB**

Local families are fundraising for Parkinson's cause

by GEM REPORTER

PARKINSON'S Awareness Week took place from April 7 -13 and local people did their best to raise funds to help care and research by the charity.

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological condition affecting about one in 500 people in the UK – an estimated 127,000.

Elaine and Jeff Smith held a coffee morning at their home in Llanmaes – Jeff has had Parkinson's for 26 years.

They told The GEM: "We would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support when we held our coffee morning.

"Jeff has suffered from Parkinson's for the past 26 years and any help in finding a cure for this debilitating disease is welcomed.

"We were overwhelmed by everyone's generosity and £850 has been collected to date. Many thanks to everyone involved."

LONDON MARATHON

Hilary Lemmer, from Llantwit Major, was thrilled that her son-in-law David Hanson was able to raise more than £1,000. Hilary explained: "Recently, David completed the London Marathon and the charity he ran for was Parkinson's Disease.

"My husband, and David's father-in-law, Roy Lemmer, has lived with the illness for 18 years and is now in a nursing home in St Hilary.

"I would like to say a big thank you to all my friends and family who helped towards Dave raising over £1,000 for this charity."

For more information, please go to: www.parkinsons.org.uk

AM's PRAISE FOR STUDENT FARMER

LOCAL farmer, Andrew RT Davies AM, has offered his congratulations to a promising student farmer, David Bugler, of Llanharan, who has been recognized by the Farmers' Union of Wales.

The Pencoed College student is about to start a diploma in agriculture which will involve learning about the industry in college, as well as gaining hands-on experience at local farms.

David won the Farmers Union of Wales' Glamorganshire county branch Walter Rowlands Memorial Award.

The award, in memory of FUW county secretary Walter G Rowlands, who died in service in 1986, is made to an agricultural student in the county by the union's Glamorganshire county executive committee.

Mr Davies said: "As a farmer myself with a stake in the family business, I am always thrilled to see the enthusiasm of the younger generation coming through. This award supports young farmers and I wish David every success in his future career. Both he and his family must be rightly proud of his achievements."

David who lives with his parents Michael and Margaret, at Merios Farm, Llanharan, said: "Farming has been always been my passion and I have learnt a lot about the logistics of running a farm from my father and grandfather.

"I particularly enjoy working with the livestock on our farm, which consists of beef cattle and breeding ewes and I look forward to going to the livestock markets to keep up-to-date with the weekly price of livestock.

"In the future I would like to take over the family farm, with the intention of continuing to run it for future generations.

"I feel that my course will teach me how to run the farm to its full potential and the award will assist me to buy reading material for the course."

Are you sitting comfortably?

WHEN Vale-based ITV presenter Jonathan Hill is not reading the news, he carries out his other important task – reading bedtime stories to his two children, Callum (12) and Niamh (8).

The family have been supporting the Welsh Government's 'Make Time to Read' campaign, to help raise literacy levels in Wales.

Jonathan Hill reading with his children.

£1.1M LOCAL LOTTERY WIN!

'We won't believe it until all the money is in our bank accounts!'

by TIM CHAPMAN

FIFTY members of Dinas Powys Bowling Club are celebrating a Lottery win of £1,124,000 – but say they won't believe their good fortune until the money is safely in the bank.

It means each person in the syndicate will get £22,480. Many of the people in the syndicate are in their seventies and eighties.

One of the organisers, Colin Burgess (78), told The GEM he checked off the numbers on Saturday night and then started phoning people to pass on the good news.

"It is not a life-changing sum, but it might help people to be a bit more comfortable.

"We've been taking part in the Lottery since day one. In the earlier days we got five numbers once and won about £1,000."

Apart from that £1,000, most of the rare wins were for small sums, although the syndicate did have a win of £202 recently.

"Our nickname was 'The Lottery Losers'. Our idea was that any winnings would go into paying for an evening meal, but we were always having to put money in ourselves to make up the sum.

"Now we're going to have to change our name!"

Colin checked off the Lottery numbers during the Saturday evening show and could hardly believe their six numbers had come up. He and his wife Betty then watched the confirmation of the numbers later in the evening after the news.

"Once I'd confirmed the numbers were right I began phoning around. I also phoned Camelot and they said the numbers were correct.

"I gave them the number on our ticket and they confirmed it on their system."

This week a representative from Camelot was due to meet Colin to validate the ticket so the winnings can be paid out.

Colin said: "I've heard some people have already been along to the travel agents," and then he joked, "As long as the money doesn't end up in an account in the Cayman Islands!"

Colin added: "Some people say they won't believe they've won the money until it is in the bank account."

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Students from Llangan Primary School, along with headteacher Steve Williams and Taylor Wimpey sales executives Deborah Tamlyn and Lisa Randell, at Pentref Newydd development in Llangan.

Boost for Llangan school outdoor learning centre

HOUSEBUILDER Taylor Wimpey has helped Llangan Primary improve its outdoor learning environment.

The school is creating different zones in the playground for the children to use for learning and play and, as well as forest and market garden areas, there is a construction zone.

Taylor Wimpey, which is building new homes at its nearby Pentref Newydd development in Coity, Bridgend, donated a set of 30 child-size high visibility jackets and hard hats for role play in the new construction site area.

Headteacher Steve Williams said: "The school is in a rural location, with many of the children from farming backgrounds and we like to get the pupils outside as part of their learning, as that's where they enjoy being. After discussing ideas with our school council, we decided to develop our outdoor learning environment.

"Because we're quite a small rural school it's difficult to get finance, as we are not situated close to a large built-up area, so we sent out a number of letters to stakeholders and local businesses and Taylor Wimpey came straight back kindly offering to help.

"The children like to have hands-on, real-life experiences, and we hope the construction zone will help develop their skills, including problem solving, literacy and numeracy."

Sensational night goes with a swing for charity

WHAT a night for big band swing! The Liberty Big Band Show at Cowbridge Comprehensive on Saturday was sensational!

All the old favourites you might expect from a 40s swing band were there, starting with Glenn Miller's 'In the Mood' and moving swiftly into things like 'American Patrol' and 'Summertime'.

The band were joined by some smooth vocals from Allyson Cox and Steve Doolan, who raised the bar even higher with classics such as 'Big Spender', 'I've got you under my skin' and 'My Kind of Girl', almost like strawberry and chocolate sauce over your favourite ice-cream sundae.

There were even a few surprising numbers, such as Allyson singing 'Skyfall' from the latest James Bond film, and the band playing an upbeat version of the 'Anvil Chorus'.

It was nearly a full house and the smiles and tapping feet of the audience said it all. It was in aid of Rotary charities, through the Rotary Club of Cowbridge. The band performed the whole night for a fraction of their normal fee, adding to the 'feelgood' factor.

ANDY BANKS

Molly tells of her adventures on ocean wave

THE monthly meeting of the St Hilary WI took place on April 8 in the Village Hall.

The meeting was opened by president Betty Thomas and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Everyone agreed that the institute's birthday lunch at the Bush Inn, was a great success and was enjoyed by all. Members were informed that an invitation had been received from St Nicholas WI to their Link Meeting on June 26. It was agreed that St Hilary WI would contribute a table at the Wenvoe WI spring table top sale on May 10.

It was suggested that the expected visit from our county Link WI, Oxwich and Penrice from the Gower, would take place in July, rather than the original date in June.

As part of the day was to visit Llancarfan Church, it was felt that work in the church would be much nearer completion by then.

It was hoped that lunch could be arranged at the Fox and Hounds pub in Llancarfan, followed by a visit to the Cowbridge Physic Garden and the day ending with afternoon tea in committee member Jo Williams' garden.

After the business part of the meeting, members were delighted to invite Molly Ranger to regale them with anecdotes of her many travels.

Molly is not only one of the longest serving members of this WI, but also the most travelled. She has been on over 60 cruises since her first world cruise in 1996 on the P&O ship, the Oriana.

Since then she has had many adventures in all continents (except, perhaps, Antarctica!) She had many tales to tell from the hair-raising to the hilarious. Molly is a great story teller and greatly entertained members until it was time for supper.

The May meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday, May 13, at 7pm in St Hilary Village Hall.

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Council responds to AM's education budget concerns

FOLLOWING a Freedom of Information request, regional Tory AM Andrew RT Davies says that the fall in school funding across the Vale is bigger than previously thought.

He said that the formula allocations for secondary schools are down by more than £1.2 million this year.

Mr Davies said that the figures were "concerning" and that he was worried schools could be forced to take measures to balance their budgets that could undermine pupil education.

He argued: "When inflation is taken into account, schools actually face a real terms cut of well over £1 million this year".

He claimed that the cuts were as follows:

- Barry Comprehensive: £383,838.
- Bryn Hafren Comprehensive: £298,493.
- Llantwit Major Comprehensive: £272,301.
- St Cyres School: £228,353.
- Cowbridge Comprehensive: £145,998.
- Ysgol Bro Morgannwg: £53,419.

Only St Richard Gwyn (£153,381) and Stanwell (£5,704) saw their budgets increase for the year.

by PHILIP IRWIN

Mr Davies said: "Despite claims to the contrary, real terms spending on Vale schools is down by well over a million pounds.

"The Labour-Llantwit coalition is slashing school funding and any attempts to claim otherwise are deliberately misleading.

"The cabinet has pointed to school numbers as an excuse for fluctuating figures but when my office spoke to Cowbridge Comprehensive, for example, we were told that school numbers this year were up – and yet they have faced a cut of almost £150,000.

"I do understand that demographic changes prevent funding from remaining static, but Vale residents will be rightly furious that the council has chosen to cut school funding just weeks after hiking their council tax by 4.5 per cent."

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children services said in response: "I am saddened that Mr Davies continues to play his petty political games with education in the Vale.

"The Labour-Llantwit First run Vale Council has funded schools in the Vale above the IBA (recommended funding level set by Welsh Government) for the second year running and has met the ambitious funding commitment for schools which is set by the Welsh Labour Government.

"This is in stark contrast with the policy of Mr Davies' party, which has committed to a funding cut for education of 12 per cent if elected to run the Welsh Government, a proposal that Mr Davies is on record as supporting.

"The previous Conservative administration which ran the council never met the recommended funding levels for Vale schools – let alone exceeded them. If he does have concerns about education funding in the Vale, then it is a shame Mr Davies didn't raise these while his party colleagues were in control of the council and the funding level was never met.

"Specifically relating to Mr Davies' comments regarding Cowbridge Comprehensive, again Mr Davies continues to mislead residents; numbers are slightly down in Cowbridge in both the under-16 age range and in post-16, but another issue is that the school overestimated its numbers, all of which has an impact on funding.

'PLAYING POLITICS'

"So again these are more facts Mr Davies has chosen to ignore. It is incredibly disappointing that he has chosen to only relay part of the facts, but as I have said previously, Mr Davies never lets the facts get in the way of playing politics with education.

"I would appeal to Mr Davies to stop playing with statistics and start apologising to the people of the Vale for his support of his Conservative colleagues' record-breaking cuts in funding to Wales, which are having a real impact on front line services, including education."

Uncertainty over new pier cruises

CRUISES from Penarth Pier, re-introduced by Cardiff Cruises after a break of several decades, were welcomed by regional AM, Andrew RT Davies – only for the company to cast doubt on when they might go ahead.

Mr Davies said: "The transformation at Penarth Pier has been quite remarkable, and this news is a timely boost to the local area as we enter the summer season."

However, yesterday (April 30), the company announced that the boat trips were in "jeopardy". A statement explained that fundraising for a new gangway had been slower than anticipated, leaving the company unsure of when they will set sail.

MAN (30) IS JAILED FOR 'GROOMING' 15-YEAR-OLDS

A PAEDOPHILE who had repeatedly breached a court order banning him from having contact with children under 16 has been jailed for 20 months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Christopher Davies, 30, was said to have taken a boy and a girl, both aged 15, to his home in Lake View Close, Porthcawl, where he "groomed them".

Judge Huw Davies QC said: "A man of 30 does not strike up friendships with 15-year-olds and invite them to his flat for an innocent reason. He was grooming them."

Davies pleaded guilty to two charges of breaching a sexual offences prevention order.

It was made in January 2011 when he was sentenced to three years and four months for 17 offences including rape, committing a serious sexual offence, indecent assault and committing acts of gross indecency involving boys and girls.

Report by AJ SICLUNA

Prosecutor David Pinnell said the order banned him from having custody, care or contact with any child under 16 unless supervised by social services.

In the current case, said Mr Pinnell, the boy's mother was told he had met a "new friend" in Porthcawl public library.

She was unaware of Davies' background.

Sometime after, continued Mr Pinnell, the boy ran away from home.

The police made enquiries and interviewed the boy who confirmed that he had been to Davies' flat with a girl on six occasions when they had played computer games and sometimes had shared a cannabis joint.

The boy, said Mr Pinnell, was always accompanied by the girl and never alone.

Davies denied to the police supplying them with cannabis and claimed the children had brought the drug along themselves.

He also said there was no ulterior motive in associating with them.

At this point, the Judge said: "The use of cannabis was a sinister element, and he was in the early stages of a grooming process."

Davies' solicitor, Rhodri Chudleigh, said: "He acknowledges it has to be immediate custody."

The Judge said that Davies had struck up friendships in "stark contravention" of the sexual offences prevention order.

And, he said, what occurred horrified the parents of the children.

Said the Judge: "You are in denial still of the circumstances of the offences."

He was disqualified from working with children for life, and the original order is to last indefinitely.

FREE PLANTS FAIR

ON Sunday, May 11, an unusual plants fair will be hosted by Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, Penarth, CF64 5UY; free entry, free parking.

For further information, contact 01446 774036.

Cosmeston egg trail was a hit

THE Easter sunshine produced record-breaking numbers of families taking part in the Easter Egg Trail at Cosmeston Lakes Country Park.

Over 500 eager Easter egg hunters collected a map from the visitor centre, found the Easter egg posts and answered the 10 questions required to complete the trail and claim their bag of chocolate goodies.

Ranger Aaron Jones said: "We had a brilliant turn out and it was great to see the children running around trying to find the trail post."

The Easter trail has been held at Cosmeston Lakes for the past three years.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sport evelopment, said: "It was fantastic to see so many people turn out for this event, especially as the weather was so beautiful."

Plant

Events THIS WEEKEND

The Great Barn, Rosedew Farm, Beach Road, Llantwit Major, CF61 1PZ

May 3, 2014 6.30-9.30pm

Health & Beauty Event

Admission £3 with arrival drink, unlimited water and herbal teas

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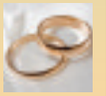

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LIVE A LIFE OF ADVENTURE!

by MARIA LEIJERSTAM

DOUBLE world record holder Maria Leijerstam from the Vale of Glamorgan, founder of the Burn Series of multisport events and qualified personal trainer, will inspire you with a weekly column on simple family sporting adventures in the beautiful countryside of south Wales.

Maria will guide you on how and where in your area you can combine sport and fitness into family fun.

Get on your bike and challenge the family!

AFTER work last Tuesday evening, I headed up to Brecon to climb Pen-y-fan as a mark of respect to the 16 Sherpas who were killed on Everest over the Easter weekend.

It was a wet and windy evening and as the light fell over the highest mountain in south Wales, I realised how lucky I was to live so close to such spectacular mountains.

To have the freedom to roam and experience such natural beauty is something we should all take advantage of when we can.

As I was heading home, I dropped into the Garwnant visitors' centre, just off the A470, 14 miles south of Brecon, and was delighted to find the venue for this week's challenge. The centre has been improved dramatically and now features a mini mountain bike skills park, as well as a children's adventure park. Therefore, on your next free weekend, load up the car with a few bikes, outdoor clothes and the family and head for this centre.

The mountain bike skills park is aimed at children, but is ideal for adult beginners also. There are a variety of features for you to negotiate such as ramps, beams and boardwalks.

If you want to take it one step at a time then that's fine, as all features can either be ridden slowly or avoided completely.

The adventure park, or low ropes course, also at the centre, is a wonderful place for a timed challenge to see how your little ones fare when racing against the clock. This will be a real test of balance, co-ordination, accuracy and strength.

From hanging tires to a zip rope, it's guaranteed to be a day full of laughter.

Set the challenge between your child and yourself and see who manages the best. Log on to www.burnseries.co.uk/youradventure for full details.

Make sure you join me next week for more adventures. Telephone: 07862 227 187; email maria@burnseries.co.uk

FOOTNOTE

This column is provided for idea purposes only. Always check with your doctor if you have any concerns about your health prior to embarking on any form of physical activity and always let someone know where you are going.

Have you heard of Glympse? It's a brilliant free app that shares your location with anyone you want for a specified period of time.

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Admiral sails to the rescue of Age Concern!

Clients enjoying a cup of tea in the Senior Health Shop Barry.

A CENTRE for older people in Barry can continue for another year – thanks to a donation by local employer, Admiral.

The Age Connects Cardiff & the Vale (formerly Age Concern) Senior Health Shop in Barry received £400 from the company after Ashley Cummings, who works in Admiral's Claims department, applied for funding from the company's Community Chest scheme.

The scheme provides funding for charities, sport teams and organisations in which staff members or their families are involved.

The Senior Health Shop is part of the Ageing Well programme which aims to improve health and wellbeing of older people (50+) in the Barry area.

Ashley explained: "My Nan attends the shop and was really concerned when she heard it may not be open next year. I knew Admiral had a scheme where I could request funding for local community groups my family were involved in and this seemed like the perfect opportunity.

"I'm really pleased for my Nan as I know how much she enjoys visiting the shop on a regular basis."

Nona Hexter, Ageing Well Coordinator from local charity Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, said: "We were seeking funding to support the Senior Health Shop in the future, which included rent and staff costs which underpin every bit of work we do.

"We have worked in Barry for 22 years and the funding from Admiral has enabled to us to continue to support many vulnerable older people in the area."

FESTIVAL OF VALE WALKS

THURSDAY, May 29, sees the launch of the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival with a guided walk, 'St Lythan's Ancient and Modern', led by Dr Ffion Reynolds of CADW.

Now in its fifth year, the festival will offer 25 guided walks from May 29 to June 1, to encourage people to visit the area.

Local history will be the theme of walks around Barry, Llantwit Major and Llanblethian with a choice of walks exploring the 'heart of the rural Vale and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast'.

Family walks, bilingual walks for Welsh and English speakers and the return of the popular Vale Ale Trail walk around the Cowbridge area are also included.

All walks are free of charge, just turn up on the day. Information is available online at www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk or through email enquiry at: infor@valeways.org.uk, or telephone 01446 749000.

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Concerns over out-of-hours care shows need for change

Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

THERE have been two recent reports which have again caused me concern over the health services being provided to residents in the Vale.

One was the statement by the local Community Health Council (CHC) which described the out-of-hours GP service in the Vale as 'diabolical'.

The other related to handover times from ambulance to hospital care.

I receive many complaints from residents in the Vale of Glamorgan about out-of-hours care. I understand that after 1am there are only one GP and one nurse based at the UHW site available to cover the population of Cardiff and the Vale.

Originally the cover was provided by two GPs in the Vale and two in Cardiff, with one GP 'out on the road' in each area.

Over the Easter Bank holiday, one parent of a young baby needed out-of-hours care. They had to wait five hours for a call back from a GP on duty. The target time is to be within one hour. This, of course, has derived from the privatisation of out-of-hours care that was introduced 10 years ago.

This naturally leads people to attend A&E rather than seek assistance locally. This obviously adds pressure to an already overstretched emergency department.

As we have also seen this week, waiting times at local hospitals that service the Vale have failed to meet the Welsh Government target handover time.

The Vale did not come out well from this report either, with 76 patients waiting for over four hours to be transferred for emergency care.

The report highlights that 29 patients waited over four hours, with 569 waiting for more than two hours.

This is not acceptable and the obvious knock-on effect is a poor ambulance response times when the vehicles are being tied up at hospitals with patients they are unable to transfer.

I have been so worried that I met recently with the Local Health Board about Barry Hospital, which included discussions about out-of-hours care. There are concerns that the Vale has no cover at some periods. We should not suffer because of the dominance of Cardiff or administrative bureaucracy.

I highlighted again with the Local Health Board that residents to the west of Cowbridge and as far south as Llantwit Major are particularly at risk as all of the out-of-hours care is based in Barry and Cardiff.

The administrative boundary is the Ogmore River, meaning that residents in Ogmore by Sea have to travel to Barry – this is designed to suit bureaucrats, not patients. I have long called for the western Vale to be serviced through the Princess of Wales Hospital.

I fear we are experiencing the impact of cuts to the health budget here in Wales. The Welsh Government is the only administration across the whole of the UK to cut health spend.

These reports have echoed many feelings that the system should be overhauled. I want service commissioners to address this as a matter of urgency and will do all I can to deliver a change locally.

Heritage bus rides in!

ON Sunday May 4, the Cardiff Transport Preservation Group is offering free heritage bus rides all day from its 1930s centre, the Bus Depot, Broad Street in Barry.

The 'Running Day' means there will be a bus departing the bus depot giving free travel every half hour to a local destination. Some will be visiting privately-owned heritage buses. All buses will be between 33 to 62 years old!

Mike Taylor, chairman of the group, said: "We tried out a running day for the first time last year and we were surprised how popular it was, especially among local people. A different heritage bus will depart in rotation, on three bus routes, one every 30 minutes. We will be selling a timetable on the day to go towards the cost of fuel and donations for getting a bus in South Africa back to Barry.

"This is our first major public activity this year as a warm-up to our big Festival of Transport on Barry Island on June 8, when we are expecting over 200 classic and vintage cars."

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St Brides are top of the form in road safety quiz

St Brides, the winners!

The runners-up from Victoria Primary.

ST BRIDES MAJOR Church-in-Wales Primary School has won the 2014 Vale of Glamorgan Council Road Safety Quiz.

The team from St Brides Major narrowly beat fellow first-time finalists Victoria Primary School from Penarth in a closely-fought and very exciting final of this popular annual event for primary schools in the Vale.

This year's competition was hosted by the Vale Council's road safety team at the Docks Office in Barry. The all-male team from St Brides finally overcame the all-female team from Victoria by one point on the last question of the competition.

A panel of judges from the road safety team presided over the event, led by Emma Reed, operational manager, who was ably assisted by fellow officers Karen Stokes and Annette Kerslake. They were called into action on several occasions particularly as the teams grew closer and the answers needed to be more precise to gain the points.

Coun Lis Burnett said: "I would like to thank everyone involved in this event and congratulate both teams on reaching the final."

Many schools achieved their highest scores in the Road Safety Quiz for a number of years during the preliminary rounds, showing that all their revision and subject knowledge really paid off and that standards continue to rise.

The finalists received gift vouchers and goody bags, plus a commemorative plaque each. The winners also received a magnificent glass trophy etched with the names of previous winners.

John Rogers, quizmaster and council road safety officer, said: "A big thank you must go to all the schools who took part in this worthwhile exercise. Win or lose, we hope that all the children enjoyed the experience and managed to take away at least a little more knowledge about road safety, which will hopefully stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives."

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Busy times for the Cadoxton WI

AT the annual meeting of Cadoxton (Barry WI) on Easter Monday, the presiding committee were re-elected.

The president thanked the branch members and the committee members for their support during the last year. The secretary highlighted some of the activities, which included day trips, interesting meetings and lunches at various venues.

The charity coffee morning this year, with the permission of the Vale Mayor, will support Cadoxton school again and also the Coast Watch.

On Thursday, April 24, members had an enjoyable trip to Llancaiach Fawr and lunch at a Harvester; Saturday, April 26 saw the GFWI annual bowls match, held at Swanbridge, and the Cadoxton team won. Well done to the team.

May will be a busy month: Cadoxton has been invited to Penarth Peers and Sully WI, plus the monthly outing and meeting.

Meetings are held every third Monday at Victoria Park Community Centre at 7pm. Guests and new members are welcome; contact 01446 404891.

CW

WHITE FARM VOLUNTEERS

WHITE Farm conservation group is calling for more volunteers to help plant native Welsh trees along a main entrance into Barry, in memory of the 700 Barry men and women who never returned from the First World War, on Friday May 2, from 4.30pm till 6pm; meeting at the junction of Merthyr Dyfan Road and Port Road East.

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The First Step to a Better Smile

NHS in Wales: HEALTH MINISTER RESPONDS

THE NHS in Wales has been battered and bruised in recent months, with a stream of bad publicity over patient care standards.

Proposed reorganisation of the service has also been a controversial topic, so The GEM invited the Welsh Government Health Minister, Mark Drakeford, to address the issues and write a column exclusively for our readers.

by MARK DRAKEFORD
Welsh Government Health Minister

LAST month marked my first year in post as Health Minister. When I took up this role, I knew it would be a challenging one – health is one of the busiest portfolio areas in the Welsh Government and takes up more than 40 per cent of the budget.

I started this job with three priorities. I wanted to realise health board plans for NHS reconfiguration; I wanted to see Wales-first legislation on the statute books, and I wanted to put NHS Wales' finances on a three-year cycle.

I am proud of the fact Wales will become the first country in the UK to introduce deemed consent for organ donation, as set out in the Human Transplantation (Wales) Bill.

I strongly believe this piece of legislation will improve the lives of the hundreds of people on the transplant waiting list now and in the future by increasing the number of organs available for transplantation.

Wales has also become the first country in the UK to display food hygiene scores publically so people can make an informed choice about where they buy and eat their food, thanks to a law passed in Cardiff Bay.

I came to the post of Health Minister in the midst of health boards' discussions about modernising the way health services are provided across Wales.

Change is not easy for the public, or for NHS staff. As a nation, we are emotionally invested in the bricks and mortar of the health service, but a modern NHS doesn't rely on every hospital providing every service possible.

In south Wales, good progress on hospital service reconfiguration is being made. The process to date has been clinically-led and there has been significant involvement from the public.

Plans for service changes have yet to be finalised, but I feel real progress has been made. In conversations throughout Wales I now hear discussions about what needs to change, rather than dissent about the need for change at all.

In terms of finances, the National Health Service Finance (Wales) Act, which became law in January, allows health boards to plan and make financial decisions over a three-year period, instead of the former 12-month regime.

This will allow the NHS to a take a longer, more strategic approach towards financial, service and workforce planning.

Looking ahead to my next year as Health Minister, I am sure there will be fresh challenges on the horizon and some more familiar ones too.

During my first 12 months, I was committed to easing the pressure on unscheduled care. The NHS made some real progress in preparing for and responding to winter pressures this year.

The winter may not have been as cold as last year, but the rain and substantial flooding it brought in January and February had a significant impact on the ambulance service, affecting its ability to respond to 999 calls.

Health boards worked hard to plan for the season, working with local authorities and the ambulance service throughout the year to put in place detailed contingency plans.

As a result, every measure of emergency care was better this winter than last – A&E waits, ambulance handovers, cancelled operations and delayed transfers of care, which have reached a 10-year low.

There have been achievements and improvements, but I reiterate my commitment to finding a satisfactory, long-term solution to this issue.

Prudent healthcare is going to feature heavily in my plans for the NHS in the next year and beyond. We need to work to a principle often called minimum appropriate intervention, which means patients are treated at a level necessary for addressing their condition.

The prudent approach to medicine is not about rationing – it is an ethical approach to healthcare which fits the needs and circumstances of patients and actively avoids wasteful care which is not to patients' benefit.

I will also concentrate on primary care and the ongoing drive to move more care out of hospital and closer to patients' homes.

On the legislation front, the public health White Paper, which contains some radical proposals to help improve Wales' health, including a minimum unit price for alcohol and putting the use of e-cigarettes on a par with tobacco products and restricting their use in public places, has started its journey.

I would encourage everyone to get involved in the consultation and have their say on the proposals.

The NHS in Wales, like every other health service in the UK, has its issues, but that should not detract from the excellent work done by the tens of thousands of staff who ensure patients are treated with dignity and compassion every day.

I am immensely proud of the NHS in Wales and everyone who works for it. We have made a lot of progress together over the last year to improve services and care for patients.

Together, we will make a whole lot more.

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Yvonne welcomed by local Soroptimists

Left to right: Yvonne, president Audrey, and Sian.

AT the recent supper meeting of Soroptimist International Barry and district, president Audrey Hirst welcomed Yvonne Scott as a member of the club.

As one of the first to go through Welsh primary education in Barry, it was appropriate that Yvonne should choose teaching as her career.

She held various posts in the area and ended her career as acting head of Mounstuart Square School, Cardiff.

Yvonne is Barry born and bred and still lives in the town with her husband, Glyn. Her sponsor, Sian Howell, said she was not only a great friend but also good fun – attributes the Soroptimists excel in!

To find out more about Soroptimists visit www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk/barry-and-district.
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Politicians' Q&A with Vale youth forum

THE new Vale youth cabinet and members of the Vale youth forum recently met Huw Lewis AM, Minister for education and skills in the Welsh Government, and Vale cabinet member for children's services, Coun Chris Elmore, for a Q&A on services for young people.

Members of the forum are drawn from schools and youth groups across the Vale and those present seized their opportunity to get answers to their questions. This is the first formal meeting of the youth cabinet following their election at the end of March.

The questions posed covered school lessons, sports facilities, and the role of AMs and councillors in serving young people.

Forum member Tom Chandler said: "Discussing future plans for education in Wales with Huw Lewis was beneficial to our understanding of the work the Welsh Assembly are currently undertaking to tackle issues within Wales.

"We look forward to seeing improvements being made."

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Rainbow Run is a riot of colour on Coney Beach

Samantha Wilson, Cathy Hunt, Andrea Gardner.

The team at the finish line.

VIKKI AND ALUN WILLIAMS.

A SEA of colour filled Coney Beach in Porthcawl for Tŷ Hafan's first 5K Rainbow Run on Sunday, April 27.

More than 1,000 participants were showered in pink, yellow, orange and blue powdered paint for the run – the first event of its kind in Wales.

The Rainbow Run, which is based on the Indian Holi festival of colour, is expected to raise more than £50,000 for Tŷ Hafan, the family hospice for young lives.

Angelo Pucella, from Bridgend, who took part with his son Luca and his wife Beth said:

"It has been such a fantastic day. Luca was so excited and he absolutely loved it. It was great to see so many people taking part to raise funds for Tŷ Hafan."

Luca, seven, is the only person in Wales to suffer from ROHHAD (Rapid-onset Obesity with Hypothalamic dysfunction, Hypoventilation and Autonomic Dysregulation) syndrome and was referred to Tŷ Hafan in 2010.

"Tŷ Hafan has been fantastic and we're so grateful for their support. I'll be taking part in Tŷ Hafan's Three Peaks Challenge next. We try and do everything we can as a family to show our appreciation, and give something back to Tŷ Hafan," said Angelo.

Mair Jeffreys, event organiser at Tŷ Hafan, said: "The Rainbow Run is about celebration, having fun with friends and raising a smile for Tŷ Hafan.

"It was wonderful to see so many Tŷ Hafan families, staff and supporters taking part today. Due to the success of the event, we are already planning our next Rainbow Run in west Wales.

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took part, not forgetting our amazing volunteers and sponsors who have made the day possible."

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Mann and Diaz bring laughter in The Other Woman

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

WHEN you're looking for a female actress to head up a studio comedy, the first person many would turn to would be Cameron Diaz.

While a credible actress in her own right, Diaz carries off comedy exceptionally well, and her latest effort, *The Other Woman*, sees her play Carly, who hooks up with Mark (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau). However, she soon discovers Mark is married to Kate (Leslie Mann), and the pair decide to turn the tables on the shifty man.

When a second affair with Amber (Kate Upton) is discovered, she too joins the pair in meting out justice to Mark...

The set-up for *The Other Woman* sounds (at least to these masculine ears) tired and boring, a case of retreading ground that the likes of The Women have already trampled with little laughter and even less subtlety. However, saddling said premise with skilled performers results in a fluffy and satisfying comedy that may be slightly muddled in the message it's trying to put across, but makes for a diverting and amusing film.

Much of the credit lies in the work of the actors on show, none of whom are stretching themselves, but aren't required to. Top of the class is Leslie Mann, an actress who is always watchable, and who seems to be getting the chance to impress in films that aren't produced by her husband, Judd Apatow.

Her character is the pivot of the film, a woman who takes her cheating other half and conjures up ways to make him pay, and Mann raises plenty of laughs in her performance, the brittle wife becoming empowered by her actions.

Cameron Diaz is her dependable self, the closest thing this genre has to a safe pair of hands, and shares with Mann a satisfying chemistry – their odd couple bonding over their desire to see Mark get his comeuppance.

Diaz plays it a little straighter, Mann handling much of the laughs, but her performance complements Mann very well.

Nikolaj Coster-Waldau does a neat line in dashing, horrible men, as *Game of Thrones* fans will attest to, and he adds a sense of comedic styling to this, creating the sort of character you will love to hate and be glad of when he finally gets what is coming to him, the actor offering a very good performance.

Meanwhile, Kate Upton shows some potential, the model having little to do other than wear a bikini and look glamorous, but she has a few moments to shine in a turn that is better than expected.

The film is directed with very little identity by Nick Cassavetes (director of *The Notebook*, perhaps the finest example ever of a gender-bridging 'chick flick'), the film visually anonymous and edited to feature a musical cue every time the dialogue dries up. The jokes do hit home, but the film looks so overtly glossy and stylised – it's not likely to be discussed by film students in years to come.

While the script is witty, and generates a decent amount of laughs, much of this lies more in the performances than in the actual writing. Melissa Stack's script doesn't really have much substance to it, the humour lacking any real bite, while the message of the film (a woman doesn't need a man, just female friends) gets somewhat obscured, come a conclusion that involves a bikini-clad bottom and a kiss.

However, as undemanding, female-centric comedies go, *The Other Woman* is a pleasing watch; it looks great on the surface, but any attempt to delve any deeper is pointless and needless.

VERDICT: A bubbly comedy that gets a massive boost from its strong cast, *The Other Woman* is a likeable film that delivers humour in the most undemanding way possible. Ignore the deeper issues that muddy its message, and instead just sit back and watch the likes of Cameron Diaz and Leslie Mann do their comedy thing. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Sweetest Thing* (2002), The Women (2008).

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Out and About with The GEM

Lions' May fayre fun

THIS bank holiday Monday sees the Porthcawl Lions' annual May fayre in All Saints' church, Victoria Avenue.

The day starts at 11am with the official opening by the Mayor of Porthcawl, after which there is fun for all. Among the attractions are a children's corner, which includes story times, bric-a-brac, books, homemade cards and soft toys, charity stalls, games for everyone, a dog show and an arena which will provide different entertainments.

When you get hungry or thirsty you can choose from burgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, hot Welsh cakes and follow that with cakes or ice cream.

The fun finishes at 3pm with the draw for the grand raffle. All this for only 50 pence per person entrance; children accompanied by adults free.

Stamp fair

BARRY Philatelic Society is holding a fair in the town.

There will be stamps, postcards, and national dealers present. It takes place at the Highlight Community Centre at the rear of Tesco, Port Road, Barry from 10am to 4.30pm on Saturday, May 3.

Admission is 50p, refreshments will be available.

The next fair will be on Saturday, November 15.

For more details, telephone 01446 741026.

Shadows Club

ON May 3 at Penarth's Conservative Club, Stanwell Road (029 2030 9979), south Wales Shadows Club's meeting – play (use our PA, etc) or just to listen; licensed bar, 8pm. Usually £3; all are welcome.

Computers for beginners

COMPUTER-phobic people living in Communities First areas of Barry are being encouraged to fight their fear on a free four-week Agored Cymru accredited course.

The Vale Council-led Barry Communities First team, in partnership with Vale of Glamorgan Adult and Community Learning, are launching a basic IT skills course in Barry Library on Monday, May 5 from 10am to noon at Barry library.

Flower club's demonstration

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers' Club will meeet at 7.30pm on Wednesday, May 7, in the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

Sharon Dower will give a demonstration entitled 'In the Mood For'.

Come, relax and enjoy the evening. A warm welcome awaits you.

Harpeth Rising in Bridgend

THE all-women American folk trio Harpeth Rising will be giving their first performance in Wales for Bridgend World Roots at the Cabo Roche Cafe Bar on May 8, at 8pm.

Bridgend World Roots promotes the very best in world, roots, folk and Celtic music in the area.

The Cabo Roche Cafe Bar is located at 5 Bells Road in Bridgend; admission is £8, more information on 01656 663555.

Art society

ON Thursday, May 8 at Cowbridge Art Society, local artist Shirley-Anne Owen will direct a practical painting session as a follow-up to last week's demonstration.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7pm to 9pm, and visitors and new members are welcome. For details of the society's activities, see *www.cowbridgeartsociety.com*.

Porthcawl shop's 'frock swap' event

A FASHIONISTA'S Frock Swap is being held on Friday, May 9, from 7.30pm in the Green Room, upstairs in Sussed, James Street, Porthcawl.

Entry (£3) includes a drinks and nibbles reception – alcoholic and non-alcoholic. Sustainable Wales organisers say the event is open to men and women.

Life Is For Today (LIFT)

THE LIFT self-help group offers support and friendship to those affected by breast cancer and meets in Cowbridge every other Wednesday between 10am and 1pm (and sometimes between 2pm and 4pm).

Visiting speakers, special activities, relaxation therapies, and an opportunity to chat with others in a similar position are all on offer.

The next meetings will be on Wednesday, May 7 (10am to 1pm) and May 21 in the afternoon, for a talk on 'Fatigue to Fabulous'.

If you know of anyone who might benefit from this group, please call Anne on 01446 772843, or Jan 01446 774575. New members welcome.

It's My Shout

THIS year, in partnership with the Arts Council of Wales and Barry YMCA HUB, It's My Shout is returning to Barry to make a short film for broadcast on BBC Cymru Wales.

Young people will be offered production and acting opportunities on the film, giving them the chance to discover what working on a set is like, as well as meeting people in the industry who can provide advice and guidance on film and television opportunities.

An information and registration evening takes place on May 8 at Barry YMCA from 7pm.

Bridgend PACT

A POLICE and Communities Together (PACT) drop-in surgery will take place at Bridgend's Asda store on May 9 from 10am – 12 noon.

Scouts Remember

ON May 11 at 2pm, members of the Scout and Guide Association's Barry district will attend St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, for a service led by Father Ben Andrews to renew their Promises and remember fallen members of both associations who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This will be a special service for both youth organisations, who will be joined by various ex-Service organisations, including the Royal British Legion.

Following the service, members of both organisations and standards will form up on King's Square and parade through the town to the Cenotaph at the memorial hall, where wreaths will be laid. Any ex-members of the organisations are welcome to attend.

Garden party

THE Cowbridge Marie Curie fundraising group is holding a party in the Cowbridge Physic Garden on May 16, at 6.30pm – 8.30pm. Tickets priced £15, to include canapes and a glass of champagne, are available from Davies the Newsagent and David Barnes the Dry Cleaners.

Cock o' the Bristol Channel race

A FLEET of historic Bristol Channel pilot cutters is coming to Barry Yacht Club to compete for the title of 'Cock o' the Bristol Channel' from Friday to Saturday, May 2 – 3.

The boats are the original cutters, now over 100 years old, 50 foot high and 80 foot long, and will recreate the glory years of pilot channel racing where they competed to get to incoming ships first to offer their services.

The cutters have been maintained to such a standard that they are still able to complete this demanding race, run under the auspices of Barry Yacht Club.

The cutters have become recognised world wide as one of the finest class of working sailing craft ever developed, required as they were to remain at sea in the Bristol Channel in all weathers.

Courtesy of Associated British Ports, it is a rare opportunity to see the cutters as they arrive and lock in at about 8pm on Friday May 2, and leave at 8am the following morning.

Weather permitting the race will start at 10am off the entrance to Barry Harbour, and an excellent view of the boats will be available from the footpath around Nell's Point from about 9am onwards.

Howard Lavis of the Barry Yacht Club said: "The race is as hard fought for now as it was a century ago. Don't miss a unique opportunity to see something very special! This will be a very special sight to witness with these majestic, beautiful boats sailing the Channel. It will be like going back in time."

Further details about the club can be found at www.barryyachtclub.co.uk.

Llantwit pub's beer festival

A Llantwit Major pub is hosting a beer and cider festival over the bank holiday.

The festival at the Old Swan Inn will also feature live music over the weekend from May 2-5.

A spokesman said: "The list includes a selection from Grey Trees, Gower and Celt, and will be complemented by local bands, including Burning Bridges, The Peter Cronin Band, Cherry Five and Seafall".

On your marks for Tenovus' Goodnight Walk!

OVER 300 walkers have already put their names down to light up the night in Cardiff on May 17 – and help make life better for people affected by cancer on the Tenovus Goodnight Walk.

Last year, walkers raised over £40,000 for Tenovus and the Goodnight Walk for 2014 is set to be even bigger and better! The five or 10-mile routes around the Welsh capital have plenty of entertainment to spur participants on!

Bethan Palfrey, challenge event manager at Tenovus, said: "This year, our Goodnight Walk is back, bigger and better than ever with loads more exciting things planned for our walkers, making sure it's going to be a very, very goodnight!"

Registration is £12 with a discounted rate for groups of four walkers.

Enter yourself or your team at tenovus.org.uk or call 029 2076 8860 for more information.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D824.

£2,000: 753928.

The rollover, which now stands at £10,500 was not won this week.

£10: 771442, 306685, 605598, 885398, 514920, 386209, 653016, 778568, 424180, 866803, 502785, 850630, 127337, 217972, 104988, 217008, 706474, 738458, 517400, 849929.

£5: 583140, 434272, 512035, 414372, 618198, 789826, 679554, 264596, 639182, 322243, 237529, 224632, 340210, 406390, 753221, 307291, 394537, 810309, 565641, 378012, 885207, 582653, 830925, 820080, 113928, 249834, 700519, 409332, 869952, 843490, 182040, 285572, 271225, 734721, 268918, 404380, 113517, 162353, 112216, 312629, 600281, 139314, 112538, 150680, 281930, 802562, 206528, 805782, 465471, 789821, 546722, 159997, 374451, 771457, 157020, 441845, 436161, 318506, 665891, 000821.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

SPONSORED BIRDWATCH

A SPONSORED birdwatch has been organised for Saturday, May 3, at Cosmeston Country Park.

The event is open to all and runs from 11am to 1pm. The proceeds of the event will go to ValePlus, a local charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability.

Meet at the visitor centre at 10.45am. Sponsor forms and further details are available from ValePlus on 01446 746691 or by emailing steve@valeplus.org.uk.

£25 GEM FACEBOOK PRIZE

Our GEM Facebook winner for April 24 is:

Ruth le Breton-gealy

who correctly answered last week's question in The GEM. The answer was:

Friday 16th May 2014

Our lucky winning reader, chosen at random wins a £25 prize voucher to spend with any advertiser in last week's GEM.

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Recalling The Life and Times of a Liberated Woman

by NANCY DAVIDGE (PART 7)

WHEN my daughter passed the 11-plus, I asked what she would like as a reward, and she decided she would like to go to Rome.

So that is what we did! It was the most rewarding experience – with the magnificence of St Peter's, the Colosseum where so many poor souls had fought for their lives against the odds, and the romantic gesture of the coin throwing in the Trevi fountain.

On my daughter's sixth birthday, we bought her a miniature poodle, that would prove to be the beginning of a love affair with the breed. We had someone who would come to our home to clip 'Popsy' and her two puppies but one day I decided to have a go myself.

Having bought the best equipment I could find, I didn't do very well the first couple of times. I then went away to Bristol for a week's professional training. After that, it just snowballed! I found suitable business premises and employed four trained girls to cope with the 400 dogs on my books.

It was an extremely hectic time. I was also successful in the showing of my toy poodle Trushka at a number of London venues and at the cream of shows, Crufts.

Although we did not win, it was worth the effort just to be there.

My next adventure would take me to Kenya again to see the wildlife, this time, my brother would accompany me.

You may wonder why my husband preferred not to travel abroad – I know it was the fear of again contracting malaria.

On our way to Kenya, we had a short stopover in Rome and then in Uganda, where breakfast was prepared for everyone.

We then continued to Nairobi, where we would stay for one week to see the wildlife, before continuing to Mombasa to enjoy the lovely facilities at the Mombasa Beach Hotel.

How things have changed since my visit and I would be reluctant to visit the area again, since the bombing of Nairobi.

It does help to have family members in certain countries. I have a nephew and a niece living in Bermuda, so I accepted an invitation to a wedding there. It is indeed a place full of romance.

The guild to which I belonged when I lived in London invited members to write an essay on how we could best help the underdeveloped countries.

Encouraged by my husband, I entered the competition and was surprised when I won for the London area. It meant having to go to Stanford Hall, which is the international college for all co-ops in the country.

I based my idea on the Red Farm, which began in the years prior to the Second World War, when unemployed people from the Valleys came to Llangan to work in local greenhouses and shared in the profits.

The houses built to house the farm workers were at that time charging a few shillings a week rent. Of course, when the Second World War started a number of the original employees left the land to find war work and a higher wage.

I had an open invitation to visit the Seychelles from the Minister of the Interior, who was one of the group from the United Nations.

When I returned to my home and continued my work in the poodle parlour, I was asked to speak to other guilds in the London area about my experience at the college.

I did this for a time then I was invited to speak on other subjects. I replied that I would talk on 'My Poodle and I' and it became an instant success.

I would take two poodles with me and sometimes three. I began getting requests from the east coast. It was becoming too much so I had to eventually stop as it was not being fair to my husband and my employees.

Next week, my American experience!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Well cleared!

Congratulations to the people who have cleared the weeds and overhanging branches of trees on the road near the river bridge.

This will allow residents to walk their dogs in safety along this very busy road. The whole of the adjoining playing field is also looking good.

Well done to the people responsible. Now the Vale Council should play its part and begin repairing the many potholes in and around the village. There are still many on the road leading to Llangan.

Well attended

THIS year's Easter morning service at St Mary Hill church was well attended by local parishioners and others from further afield. Again, a big thank you to Mary Lloyd for her efforts in providing breakfast for everyone, as it was so early in the morning (6am!).

DID YOU KNOW... You can follow The GEM on Twitter? Find us at: @gem_news

New plans for Vale libraries could trigger war of words

by PHILIP IRWIN

A WAR of words is likely in the next few weeks as the Vale Council considers proposals to reconfigure library services – a move that hopes to save £500,000 from the council's budget.

While unions representing staff are concerned about proposed reduced opening hours, and the consequent cut in wages, the council is presenting the new plan in a much more positive light, describing it as a "radical redesign".

The plan was considered by the Vale Council cabinet on Monday (April 28) and the cabinet is emphasising that no decision will be taken until after a consultation period.

A council spokesman said: "The radical redesign looks to bring the Vale's library services into the 21st century. The plans, informed by the recent library review will see Wi-Fi service upgraded and extended and digital services such as e-books pushed to the fore.

"Under the proposals, no libraries in the Vale will close but instead new proposals to work in partnership with communities can be agreed".

St Athan, Dinas Powys, Sully and Wenvoe are the ones which could become community libraries, run in partnership between local volunteers with support from the council.

This option will be dependent upon further negotiations and consultation with various organisations and community councils in the areas concerned.

The council suggests that partnerships on this model could even see libraries opened out of hours for book clubs or children's activities as a result of extra flexibility.

However, the council is clearly hoping to make significant savings by cutting the opening hours of five main libraries – Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Penarth and Rhoose.

The report considered by the cabinet said that 'footfall' in libraries is low in the early morning and later in the day, so these are where the cuts in opening hours will fall.

It seems unlikely that libraries will open before 10am, and they will also close earlier.

The Welsh Conservative Assembly Leader, Andrew RT Davies, is concerned about this and said: "Libraries play a vital role in our communities and while that role has changed over the years, they remain important for both cultural and social reasons.

"It's not just about making books available and fostering a love of reading, whether for pleasure or educational purposes.

"Libraries are social and cultural community hubs – hosting community groups, schoolchildren and providing access to the internet for job seekers or families who are not online.

"I have deep concerns over these plans. Whilst understanding the need to make savings at council level, I worry that restricting opening hours and cutting the budget for books will make libraries less accessible to the community.

"These plans are due to affect opening hours at five libraries and I would urge people from Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Rhoose who use these services to write to their local councillors and make their views known."

Coun Neil Moore, Leader of the Vale Council, said: "The way in which our residents use libraries is changing. This fact, coupled with the financial pressures that the council is currently facing, has prompted a radical re-think of how we provide library services.

"The outcome of this is a new way of working that will not only secure the future of all of the Vale's libraries, but also broaden their appeal to bring in a new generation of library users.

"I would urge anyone interested to read the cabinet report in full and not listen to any rumours, or false and misleading information, that appears to be spreading on this subject," Coun Moore stated.

"It should be emphasised that there will be full consultation on the 'proposed strategy', which looks to find innovative solutions to the huge financial pressures facing local authorities across Wales, rather than just closing services down.

"The council is fully committed to the future of library services and has also committed over £300,000 to refurbish library buildings to ensure a quality service for local residents, and we will continue to do everything within our power to support the Vale"s libraries."

Coun Chris Franks of Plaid, who represents Dinas Powys, said: "The way that the community and the staff have been treated is very worrying. Local councillors have been kept in the dark.

"To say that libraries are closing elsewhere is not a reason to downgrade Dinas Powys or, indeed, other Vale libraries. In fact, there has just been a government grant to improve libraries across Wales, including Llantwit as well as Grangetown.

"Having behaved in this manner, why does the Vale think that volunteers will now step into the breach and assist?

"There is a lot of anger in Dinas Powys about the attitude of the Vale Council and goodwill is now in short supply."

The council plans will also see a 'pop-up' library service started in the Barry area. This service, which will be run by the Vale Council in partnership with Barry Town Council, will visit care homes and community centres and enable residents with mobility issues to access library services, lost when the previous Vale-wide service was withdrawn.

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ON Sunday, April 27, the Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society held its annual tractor run in support of the Ed Evans Foundation charity.

There was a smaller turnout than in previous years, with 35 tractors leaving Frank Sutton's yard in St Mary Hill at 10.30am.

The lunch break was taken at the Brackla Café on the Coity Industrial Estate, where the needs of the tractor drivers and the followers were taken care of.

One of the outfits was an international tractor with an odd sign printed on the bonnet *"Shoes must be worn when driving this tractor"*.

On further inquiry, it was discovered that this tractor had come from a nudist colony! We were told that the new owner's good lady had made it quite clear that she had no intention of driving the tractor until the tractor seat was replaced!

Thanks were extended to Frank Sutton and staff for the use of their site, and it was confirmed that the tractor run had raised in excess of £450 for the charity. BG

Vale will be a test case for Assembly bus network trial

THE Vale has been selected as a trial area for a Welsh Government study on how to improve rural bus networks.

Transport Minister Edwina Hart announced two trials, where the Vale Council, and also Ceredigion, will each receive £100,000 to tackle the problem of rural networks.

The trials will run for a year and be evaluated by the Bus Policy Advisory Group, who will then advise the Minister on what schemes could be rolled-out nationally.

The Vale Council is to investigate a number of schemes, including:

• How to encourage new fare-paying passengers to use rural public transport.

• Establishing a scheduling and booking system for public transport, with ICT support, reflecting the Green Links services.

• Identifying on-road infrastructure improvements, such as bus stops.

• Establishing a collaborative team to manage services to reduce costs.

• Evaluate the potential for discounted bus travel for young people and those not in employment, education or training.

Andrew RT Davies, the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, said the money was welcome, but little more than a "sticking-plaster".

He said: "Rural bus services have been devastated by Welsh Government cuts of over £24 million and the impact here in the Vale has been particularly profound.

"Whilst this money is welcome, it is a miniscule fraction of the cash lost so far by operators who have in turn withdrawn numerous local routes.

"It is asking a lot of the Vale council to turn bus services around with this sum – akin to sending a fire fighter in to tackle a forest fire with a damp flannel."

Mr Davies said the focus on increasing take-up of rural services was welcome – but missed the point that in many areas there simply are no bus services:

"I welcome the focus on encouraging local people to use rural bus routes more regularly but in some instances there simply are no buses for them to use.

"I genuinely hope that these schemes are successful because it is vital that people can access work, education and other public services but recent cuts to funding by the Welsh Government have hit the Vale hard.

"The Minister needs to go further and look again at the new system they have introduced to calculate operators' subsidies."

PUBLIC IS URGED:

'Take extra care during firefighters' strike action'

AS firefighters announce further industrial action over the Bank Holiday weekend, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service (SWFRS) is urging communities to be 'extra vigilant' at home and on the roads.

Strike action is planned on May 2, between noon and 5pm; May 3, from 2pm until 2am the following morning; and May 4, from 10am until 3pm.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Rod Hammerton, stressed: "Whilst South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority understand why staff are taking industrial action, the fire and rescue authority has a duty and an obligation to ensure that the provision of services to the public remains as unaffected as is reasonably practicable.

"The strike dates coincide with a bank holiday weekend when historically people tend to make the most of the holiday period be it travelling, socialising or barbecuing with family and friends.

"During this period, we urge our communities to be extra vigilant as they go about their business, as regrettably the number of SWFRS staff expected to make a protest is high and will also include operational staff.

"This reduction in resources will mean SWFRS will not be able to provide the same high level of response to fires and other emergencies and as such life critical incidents will be responded to as a priority".

ROUTE 66 JUMBLE

ALL are welcome to a jumble sale in aid of local charity Route 66 at Peterston Village Hall on Saturday, May 17, from 10am.

The Route 66 Appeal is a progressive charity aiming to raise money for young people with life-limiting conditions, and a short life expectancy in Wales.

It helps sick 16 – 30 year olds live life to the full for their limited number of years and also provides specialist medical and practical support.

Funding is difficult for these young people and often help from Route 66 is the key to their happiness. So please come along to support its founders in their attempt to improve services.

You can find out more about the Route 66 Appeal via Twitter – connect to @route66projects.

Any help you can give will benefit these young people who live everyday life with huge challenges and who would just like to do the things that other young people take for granted. www.justgiving.com/victoria-lidstone.

Gina Groom
07968 24 78 23

Craft fair helps the 'Bullies Out' charity

AFTER enjoying its first year celebration on April 5, when many visitors were able to share the delicious cake provided, Enfys Craft Fairs starts its second year on Saturday May 3 at St Ffransis, Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry.

A spokeswoman said: "The fair has many exciting local crafts, hot drinks, and snacks to buy and enjoy; entry is free and open to visitors from 10am to 4pm.

"The charity for April, Velindre cancer hospital, was pleased to raise over £100 selling the knitted chicks with a chocolate egg inside; £55 was also raised for Velindre from a themed cake made, donated and raffled by Kathy Hinton of West End Cakes.

"The charity for May 3 craft fair will be 'Bullies Out', founded by Linda James in May 2006.

"Bullies Out is a time-limited, solution-focused anti-bullying service which provides just that."

For more information, contact Beryl on 01446 418695, or Cyril on 01446 400149.

Top volunteer Gay a guest at No 10!

Gay Fifield with Alun Cairns at No 10.

VALE resident Gay Fifield joined Alun Cairns MP on a visit to Number 10 Downing Street, in honour of her outstanding contribution as a volunteer in the community.

Mr Cairns nominated Mrs Fifield to attend the reception in recognition of her dedication to serving her community. She runs a number of community initiatives from the Age Connect (formerly Age Concern) shop on Holton Road, Barry, which includes the Friends and Neighbours group. Mrs Fifield also ran the Barry Hospital League of Friends for many years.

"I was so pleased to nominate Gay for this reception. The Prime Minister hosted the event and it was a lovely evening," the MP reported.

"Gay is a hard-working individual whom I have met on several occasions at Age Connect's senior health shop on Holton Road and the friendship group she runs for people over 60.

"She is an inspiration and this goes a small way to recognising her hard work and service to the community. There is no doubt that so many benefit from Gay's support. Without her involvement, there would be a significant number of older people who would be isolated."

Mrs Fifield said: "I had a lovely time and had an opportunity to chat to the Prime Minister. We talked about Barry specifically, and the importance of community groups.

"He also recalled his many visits to Barry and said that he was looking forward to bringing the US President to Wales later this year for the NATO Summit.

"He pointed out that a serving US President has never visited Wales before."

Wild boars on the loose in Maesteg!

IN 1998, newspapers around the UK were captivated by the tale of the 'Tamworth Two' – a pair of porkers who escaped from an abattoir near Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

There was even a movie – released in 2004 – although it was hardly a blockbuster.

So, what are the chances of the 'Llangynwyd 42' becoming famous?

At the time of writing, 42 wild boar (23 adults and 19 'boarlets') are on the loose in the Maesteg area after fences were cut at a farm in Llangynwyd.

South Wales Police are warning that although the animals are not an immediate threat to public safety, they may charge anyone who tries to approach them, as the boars will be disorientated, confused and are not used to being out of their pens.

Inspector Paul Thomas said: "These animals are recognised as posing a potential threat. People should take as much care as possible.

"We are investigating the criminal damage and the release of dangerous wild animals, which can carry a sentence in prison.

"Six people have been arrested in connection to this incident and are currently in police custody pending further investigation."

A police spokesperson said that the owner of the farm holds a dangerous animals licence and had the necessary fencing in place to prevent escapes.

Wild boars are usually nocturnal, foraging in early morning or late afternoon and evening.

Speaking on the radio, BBC Wales naturalist Iolo Williams said that the animals were nervous and were difficult to find once they found a suitable area of woodland.

He recounted that he had once taken a BBC crew to the Forest of Dean, where wild boar are well established, and it had taken three days to get one of the animals on camera.

He added that boar in the Forest of Dean stay on the English side of the border, because the Welsh Government has a 'shoot to kill' policy.

• *Any sightings should be reported to South Wales Police on 101 or alternatively ring Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or www.crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information.*

Top chef will mark Topstak anniversary

ADVERTISING PROMOTION

WOODSTOVE and interiors specialist, Topstak, is celebrating the first anniversary of the opening of its new showroom in the Vale of Glamorgan, with a special open day on May 10, from 10am – 5pm.

One of the key attractions of the day will be a series of exciting and informative cooking demonstrations by top chef Steven Evans, who trained at Nigel Haworth's Michelin-starred restaurant, Northcote.

Steven will be carrying out the demos on Topstak's Esse range cookers, located upstairs in the Gallery Cafe; and will also be showing the public how to create fabulous meals on the innovative Esse Fire Stone outdoor oven.

The Big Green Egg Barbecue system caused a stir when it was launched last year, as it is really easy to control and can be used all year round.

On May 10, Topstak will be giving customers the opportunity to sample some delicious beer can chicken cooked on this intriguing smoke-free barbecue system that is used by many Michelin-starred chefs.

And, of course, there will be the opportunity to sample Topstak's fabulous home-made cakes in the Gallery Cafe.

Plus, there's the famed Topstak stove selection, interior specialities such as designer kitchens, beautiful lights and stylish cookware.

"We are looking forward to seeing our many existing customers, and meeting new visitors who want to see what we offer, " says Topstak director, Adam Pedersen.

"The open day will provide an opportunity for customers to see our full range, which includes many new products.

The cooking demos, we hope, will provide visitors to the showroom with helpful and interesting tips."

Topstak - 01446 771 567 - www.topstak.co.uk.

Enfys Craft fair helps 'Bullies Out' charity

AFTER enjoying its first year celebration on April 5, when many visitors were able to share some delicious cake, Enfys Craft Fairs starts its second year this Saturday, May 3, at St Ffransis, Millennium Hall, Park Road, Barry.

The fair has many exciting local crafts to peruse, delicious hot drinks and snacks to buy and enjoy, entry is free and open to visitors from 10am to 4pm.

The charity for April, Velindre Cancer Hospital, was pleased to raise over £100 by selling the knitted chicks with a chocolate egg inside; £55 was also raised for Velindre from a themed cake made, donated and raffled by Kathy Hinton of West End Cakes.

The charity for the May 3 craft fair will be 'Bullies Out', founded by Linda James in May 2006.

Bullies Out is a time-limited, solution-focused anti-bullying service which provides just that.

For more information, contact Beryl on 01446 418695, or Cyril on 01446 400149.

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INSPIRING THE VALE: New grants available for young entrepreneurs

YOUNG entrepreneurs up to the age of 30 in the Vale of Glamorgan, are being given the chance to secure a grant of up to £3,000 to launch their own business. Over £60,000 is available during the coming year.

'Inspiring the Vale Bursaries' led by Creative Rural Communities, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's rural regeneration initiative, has been re-opened to provide assistance to young people looking to implement their ideas for businesses or community enterprises.

The project began originally between 2008 and 2011, supporting 23 new businesses – from barbers to photographers and from caterers to those specialising in renewable energy.

Many of those businesses have continued to grow and now employ staff of their own and the Creative Rural Communities team is hoping to attract new young entrepreneurs to take advantage of the project.

"We are delighted to announce the re-opening of this grant scheme to support new business development across the Vale of Glamorgan," Said Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation.

"The aim of the scheme is to encourage innovation, with an emphasis on support and encouragement and we hope we see many more success stories following in the footsteps of those young people who received funding in the initial phase and are now running successful businesses".

Speaking at a briefing for organisations supporting young people in Barry, Nia Hollins, Senior Rural Regeneration Officer at Creative Rural Communities, added: "This is a fantastic opportunity for young people living in the Vale of Glamorgan. The chance to secure a bursary can be invaluable to making a business idea a reality.

"Everyone needs help starting out in order to develop. Some of the businesses that received grants through the original project are now employing staff of their own.

"It just goes to show how small projects like this can make a huge difference in the community."

• *Grants of up to £3,000 are available to young people, up to the age of 30 living in the Vale of Glamorgan, or have done so in the past and would like to establish a business there.*

To find out more about Inspire Vale Bursaries, visit: www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk

The Stagecoach youngsters sing along with the stars!

ABOVE:
Performance Troupe ready to perform items from 'Top Hat'.

'AN evening of movies and musicals' was performed at St David's Hall in Cardiff on Saturday, April 26.

The packed auditorium enjoyed unforgettable performances from Wynne Evans (Welsh tenor, 'Go Compare'), Nathan James (ITV's 'Superstar') Sandra Marvin (*Hairspray*, *Chicago*) and Sabrina Alouecheche (*Les Miserables*, *We Will Rock You*).

Alongside this star line-up, students from Stagecoach Theatre schools in Bridgend, Cowbridge and Cardiff also performed with professionalism and talent.

The 'Performance Troupe' impressed with two show-stopping medleys from *Top Hat* and *Half a Sixpence*, and a further 70 Stagecoach children sang with great energy and skill in the concert choir.

All performers were accompanied by conductor and concert producer Matthew J Hampson and his incredible orchestra. A night to remember for all involved both on stage and in the audience.

LR

Bargains in spring fayre

FAMOUS for over 50 years for stalls full of bargains, this year will be no exception at St Paul's spring fayre.

On sale will be toys, books, DVDs and CDs, gifts and cards, home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, sweets, crafts and bottle stall.

There will be a raffle with first prize of £50 and many other prizes.

Doors open on Saturday, May 10 at 2pm at St Paul's Church Hall in St Paul's Avenue, Barry. Admission is 50p and entry for all children is free.

All proceeds from the fayre are to help the continuing work of the Barry Churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan.

Disney sparkles on Ice!

IT'S for the kids, right? I mean, how much fun can an adult expect to derive from Disney on Ice – an ice-skating interpretation of some of the most successful of Disney's films?

Well, the short answer is: quite a lot actually, but half of the enjoyment is obtained from gazing at your children's faces as they watch the show in wonder – and the other half from watching the show itself.

Disney On Ice presents Worlds of Fantasy at Cardiff's Motorpoint Arena, reproduced elements from four of Disney's most successful films from recent years: Lightning McQueen, Mater and the crew of Disney/Pixar's *Cars* race across the ice, before we dive into *The Little Mermaid*'s enchanting undersea kingdom.

Then there is a visit to the mystical world of Pixie Hollow with Tinker Bell and the Disney Fairies, before the show turns to *Toy Story 3*, where Buzz Lightyear, Woody, Jessie and the rest of the gang escape from over-enthusiastic tots (and the totalitarian regime) at Sunnyside Daycare – and your guides for this journey are none other than Mickey, Minnie, Donald and Goofy.

Now, your five-year old may well not know who the latter four are, but they will certainly find some of their favourites somewhere, and highlights include Ariel's underworld kingdom being brought to life with skaters using shimmering blue banners to create waves, the cast of *Cars* sliding across the ice, Barbie and Ken skating to sounds of Kung Fu Fighting and *Toy Story*'s green soldiers dancing to The Toys Are Back In Town.

Perhaps the Tinkerbell section is a little long, perhaps the merchandise wasn't that cheap, perhaps £8 is a little too much for a bag of popcorn, but in years to come, will you really remember that or the sparkle in your children's eyes – because there is certainly something here that your child will find magical.

RF

THE lucky winners of family tickets to Disney on Ice Worlds of Fantasy at Cardiff's Motoropoint Arena were: Mrs T Burton, Corntown; Reese Convery, Barry; Mrs L Reid, Llantwit Major; and Kerry Batchelor, Barry.

• *Congratulations to the winners. Watch out for more exciting competitions in The GEM!*

www.swoosh.me.uk needs YOU!

WWW.SWOOSH.ME.UK, the youth information and advice site for the Vale, is looking for new editorial group members.

Swoosh, an online channel offering information, advice and guidance for all young people aged 11-to-25, is part of the National Information and Advice Service in Wales called CLIConline. Local county websites are being developed as part of the 'All Wales' network to share information, gain support and empower young people to express themselves. The website is also supported by the Welsh Government.

Part of the Swoosh website is to have a Swoosh editorial group of interested young people who can steer the website and content. This group meets once a month in person to discuss the running of the websites and act as reporters, gaining skills and experience along the way at the Vibe Experience warehouse, where they are provided with iMac laptops.

Contact the Swoosh Editor, Beckie Jordan on 01446 700622 or email beckie@vibeexperience.com.

CLASSES FOR ELDERLY

A NEW weekly Pilates class will be starting on Friday, May 9 at Llanblethian Village Hall from 11.30am-12.30pm.

"Each class will cost £4.50 and the chair-based programme helps older people develop strength and enhance their ability to function better in daily life," a spokesperson explained.

New weekly classes in strength and balance for older people will start on May 9 at Penllyn Village Hall from 10am-11am and costs £4.50 per class.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Free bicycle safety checks for the summer

IF you're organising a summer fete, fun day, health promotion event, bike week or charity ride then Vale Cycle Servicing can attend and carry out free Dr Bike safety checks on all cycles presented along with advice and guidance for getting back in the saddle.

Dr Bike can be added as an additional attraction and to encourage people to travel there by bicycle. If you would like further information or want to book us for your event then please contact us, either by calling on 07812 033 064 or by email to Peter@ValeCycleServicing.co.uk.

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Unemployment falls in the Vale

UNEMPLOYMENT has fallen again in the Vale in the latest figures published by the Office for National Statistics.

The number of unemployed claimants in Vale constituency in March 2014 was 1,929, a claimant count rate of 4.1 per cent. The number of claimants is 339 lower than this time last year.

Local MP Alun Cairns MP said: "This is good news for us locally and shows that although the economic climate is still tough there is cause for gentle optimism."

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Llantwit Major entrepreneur is a true business inspiration

Author Alison Stokes (second left) with Layla Bennett of Hawksdrift Falconry (left), NLP therapist Kevin Arnold, Glynn Pegler, CEO of Culture Group and Nathan Dicks of Rewise Learning.

KEVIN ARNOLD from Llantwit Major, who launched his own therapy practice after 30 years of working for BT, is one of a dozen entrepreneurs featured in *Be Your Own Boss*, a new book launched as part of the 2014 Quick Reads series.

Written by Alison Stokes, it is a collection of inspirational stories from entrepreneurs from all over Wales.

The book was launched in February at The Senedd by Minister for Education, Huw Lewis. Quick Reads are available from bookshops, libraries and online at *www.gwales.com*.

Kevin retrained in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) and in 2011 launched Momentum Coaching.

He now offers therapy and coaching sessions to clients to help them overcome a range of issues such as depression, smoking, weight loss and lack of confidence. Sessions can be face to face or via Skype.

You can contact Kevin via www.momentum-coaching.co.uk or on 07766 018831. Quote The GEM for exclusive special discount offer.

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New Pilates class starts in Barry

A NEW beginners Pilates class starts at 10am on Thursday, June 5 at St Nicholas Hall, Barry; the course runs for six weeks and costs £39.

Classes are led by qualified Pilates teacher Sharon Sylvester, who is also an osteopath working in Barry. Classes are relaxing and welcoming.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining strength with flexibility, suppleness and better posture. The class is suitable for complete beginners.

Clients say they miss Pilates when there is a break and notice a real difference in the way they feel. Classes are held at St Nicholas Hall, Barry with the exception of the 5.30pm class on Mondays at St Francis Millennium Centre in Barry.

To join or for more information, contact Sharon on 07830 085606 or see www.barrypilates.co.uk.

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Cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis said: "Newspaper, magazines, leaflets, scrap paper and various packaging, are some of the examples you can recycle from your kerbside collections."

"Paper is sorted and water is added until it becomes a clean pulp and is ready to be turned into a new product.

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South Wales Police remember
Brave bobbies who fell in the Great War

THE South Wales Police plan to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War by remembering the serving police officer officers who fell.

Its museum, based at police headquarters in Bridgend, want the public to help gather information about serving officers from predecessor forces who fought and died during World War One.

All stories and information collected, including photographs, letters and newspaper coverage from that time, will be shared with the public via www.south-wales.police.uk/moreaboutus/museum, a spokesperson said.

Volunteer researchers are busy exploring the collection of records held in the force museum and other museums in Wales that house information relating to the police service and the police officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

They have already unearthed numerous stories, including that of Company-Sergeant-Major Richard Thomas, of Bridgend, who was a former police officer for the Glamorgan Constabulary.

In a news article which featured in the Glamorgan Gazette, on July 21,1916, we read that his death was announced by Regimental-Sergeant-Major John Thomas, who was his fellow police sergeant at Bridgend.

In a letter to his wife written on July 10 he said: "Just a line to let you know that I am all right. Wish I could say the same about the other boys. Poor Dick Thomas was killed yesterday morning where the big fighting that you read about in the newspapers is going on. Captain Herdman and he were leading the company into action, and Dick was about the first to be knocked over.

"The captain was wounded. Bob Harris was also killed near the same spot. Trinder was wounded, and is now in hospital. No doubt this will come as a terrible shock to Mrs Thomas.

"Colonel Smith is all right but we are very upset over the loss of Dick. He used to keep us all alive with his jokes."

The 'Bob Harris' referred to (also exceedingly popular amongst the officers and men of the Glamorgan Constabulary) was formerly Sergeant RJ Harris, who was stationed at Aberkenfig and for a time at Nantymoel. Both were in the same battalion of the Welsh regiment.

Sergeant Dick Thomas was also well known as the Bridgend, Mountain Ash and Welsh international rugby forward.

Director of Legal Services Gareth Madge said: "During the First World War, many serving police officers from the Glamorgan, Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil, Neath and Cardiff Constabularies found themselves serving King and Country.

"We have already unearthed a wealth of information relating to the police officers who served during World War One, which includes those mentioned in dispatches and recognised for acts of gallantry."

RIGHT: Company-Sergeant-Major Richard Thomas of Bridgend, formerly of Glamorgan Constabulary, and captain of the Bridgend Rugby Club.

Officers such as Private David Charles Grant who died age 26 on September 27, 1915. Grant, who was the son of William Thomas and Emily Grant of High St, Barry was also an officer of the Glamorgan Constabulary serving in Llantrisant, Bridgend, Porthcawl and Llantwit Major and described as "a very popular" and "discreet and capable constable".

He was congratulated in an article published on Friday October 22, 1915 for receiving a DCM in the field for acts of conspicuous bravery.

Grant is reported to have taken part in a memorable attack on Loos and also in the storming of Hill 70, where he distinguished himself by several acts of bravery, including bringing to safety a wounded comrade under a perfect hail of shell and machine gun fire.

Gareth Madge added: "We want to make sure we uncover as much information as possible about our proud history and the many men who served both the force and their country ensuring they are not forgotten."

If you have information or stories you would like to share or have the contact details of someone you think could make a contribution please email us at: policemuseum@south-wales.pnn.police.uk.

Be nice to the nettles!

THE National Botanic Garden of Wales is urging you to 'Be Nice to Nettles' as part of a month-long celebration of plants and health.

'Medicines in May' is a fixture in the garden's event calendar and, this year, it focuses on how our ancestors made use of medicinal plants – right back to the 1600s, when the destiny of the first Middleton Hall was forged in the fortunes of seafaring adventurers trading spices in the East Indies (May 3-4).

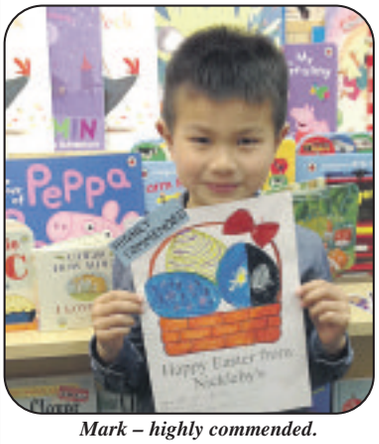
The story of the garden is told and includes 1824, when the Regency Middleton estate was up for sale, following the death of Sir William Paxton, who created many of the features we see in the Garden today (May 10-11).

On Saturday and Sunday May 17-18, take a trail around the garden and meet the people, plants and places associated with the life and times of 1914.

There's a whole month's worth of talks, trails, fun and games. But the sting in this particular tale is 'Be Nice To Nettles' weekend (May 24-25) when you can join modern-day herbalist Nicola Dee Kelly and discover the wonderful herbal uses of Urtica dioica.

Choc full of talent!

The winner, Teghan.



Mark – highly commended.

NICKLEBY'S bookstore has thanked all those who entered its fantastic Easter colour-in competition.

It was a close call deciding who would be the winner of the delicious chocolate egg as there were so many beautiful creations. In the end it was Teghan's (aged 5) wonderful artistic abilities that made her the winner. Close behind Teghan was Henry (aged 6), who came highly commended. Both enjoyed their egg-cellent chocolatey prizes!

Bethan Davies

WIN £25 IN OUR Van About Town WORDSEARCH COMPETITION

Simply complete the following wordsearch to have a chance of winning **£25 Cash!**

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There are 18 names to find from the following 22...

S	T	O	V	E	R	O	O	M	2	0	1	2
O	H	B	P	S	A	S	G	U	A	R	D	Z
N	E	N	I	N	A	E	J	F	G	K	I	C
I	O	P	T	F	A	D	R	A	E	L	A	H
C	D	G	O	N	N	R	M	R	T	O	M	I
A	O	A	P	U	D	H	A	R	A	F	O	P
L	R	R	S	D	L	S	C	I	G	G	N	S
A	E	D	T	Z	F	A	H	E	R	S	D	A
R	T	E	A	P	O	N	I	R	I	T	Z	W
M	O	N	K	O	W	E	N	S	P	A	K	A
S	U	Y	T	I	M	B	E	R	A	W	A	Y
X	E	M	I	R	R	O	R	I	M	A	G	E
F	P	I	B	O	N	N	Y	T	I	L	E	R

2012
Asguard
Sonic Alarms
Nina
Barry Security
Stove Room
SJ Building
Timberaway
Theodore
Farriers
Mirror Image
GJR Machinery
The Laundry Room
Action Doors
Topstak
Get a Grip
NP Garden
Diamond
Bonny Tiler
Chips Away
Owens
A and L

There are 22 companies in the above list - Find 18 and send us the names of the missing 4 businesses!

Normal competition rules apply. **Closing date: May 16th 2014 - GOOD LUCK!**

LOCAL MUSEUM KEEPS VISITORS HAPPY

ABOVE: Dr Who meets the volunteers at the Wartime Heritage Centre.

PROVING the value of an all-weather attraction at Barry Island, the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre saw a steady stream of soggy visitors during its Easter Sunday open day.

The centrepiece was a replica police box, which looked like a TARDIS, sat on the station platform.

Event organiser Ade Pitman explained its significance, saying: "Today if you see a police box on the street you instantly think that an episode of Dr Who is being filmed, but the irony is that the TARDIS was designed to look like a police box so that it would blend in.

"Before police radios, there were thousands of these boxes across the country, providing both the police and the public with a means of contacting the emergency services. It would be interesting to learn where these were sited in Barry.

"With the assistance of a couple of Dr Who impersonators, we were able to educate visitors about this, and show them what a real police box would have looked like, both inside and out.

"It's all about helping our visitors to enjoy learning history."

Showing how to survive the horrible weather conditions of Easter Sunday were cadets from 372 Squadron (Barry) ATC, who regularly volunteer at the museum.

While some cadets experienced and discussed what it was like to wear the uniforms and equipment of the past, fresh from their Duke of Edinburgh expedition, others made a bivouac on the station platform and demonstrated their field-craft skills.

Warm inside the station building, local veterans turned authors, Eileen Younghusband and Alun Higgins, discussed their latest books, while the heritage trains of the Barry Tourist Railway ran a regular service from Barry's Waterfront to the Island.

Ade concluded: ''Although the weather meant that visitor numbers were less than expected, our tiny museum and Barry's tourist railway once more provided an interesting attraction for all the family.

"If you haven't yet visited us, the Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre is open Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm, and we'll be open in support of events at the Island throughout the summer. We are also available for group bookings."

To keep up with the latest news and events, follow Barry at War on Facebook at *www.facebook.com/BarryAtWarHistoryGroup*. You can also contact Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.

Council progress on waste management

THE Vale Council has been recognised as the third lowest-cost authority in Wales in terms of its waste management services.

A recent waste finance benchmarking project carried out by the Welsh Local Government Association found that the Vale provided a very cost-effective waste management service.

The council had a very low average expenditure of less than £3 per household per week across household waste collection services .

The Vale also ranked as second highest in Wales for the amount of food waste collected per household, collecting on average a huge 97kg from each household across the year, and eighth highest for dry recycling collection with just short of 12,000 tonnes being collected across the area.

Director of visible services and housing, Miles Punter, said: "Overall expenditure in the Vale has fallen compared to 2011/12 yet our services are continuing to improve and are consistently outperforming other councils in Wales by some way, and it is a testament to the fantastic work of the whole waste management team and the support of our householders ."

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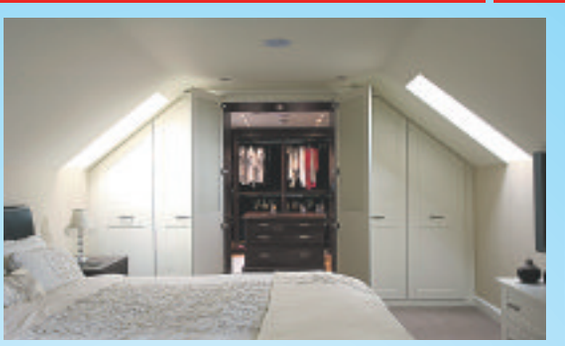

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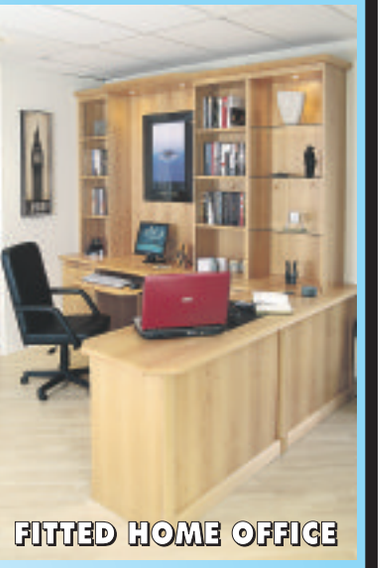

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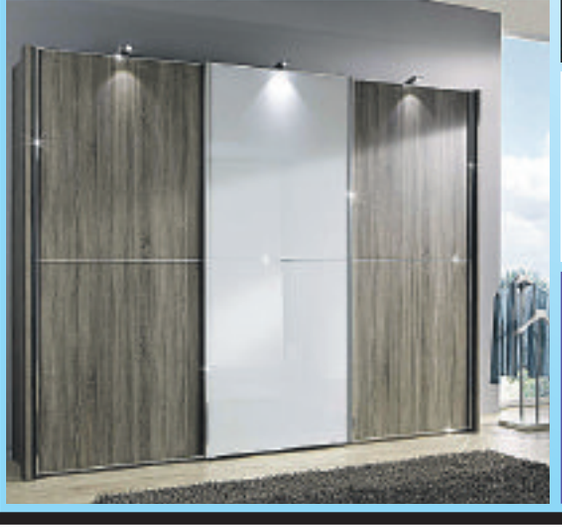

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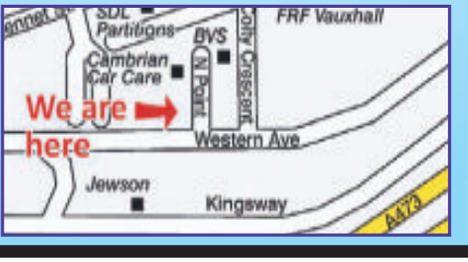

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School shines bright for Earth Hour!

YSGOL Iolo Morganwg has been "helping to build a brighter future" by supporting WWF's Earth Hour, a spectacular and symbolic global event that focuses the world's attention on our brilliant planet, and the need to protect it.

The eco committee held an assembly encouraging children and staff to take part.

They held a no electricity afternoon on March 28 and encouraged pupils to switch off their lights on March 29 at 8.30pm, along with millions of others across the world.

They also raised money by dressing in bright and sparkly clothes, ensuring they shone for Earth Hour. The week culminated in the school creating the WWF Panda logo from their Earth Hour stars/wishes for the future.

The whole school has taken part during the past couple of weeks in preparing their stars, enjoying activities without electricity and tweeting ideas to save their future, showing how much they care about their planet.

We have encouraged children to inspire parents, friends and family. Don't forget, sign up for next year's Earth Hour! Join in the conversation @ysgoliolomorganwg with hashtags #EarthHour and #bebrilliant.

Sarah Tudor, eco co-ordinator

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR VOTING…

ON Thursday, May 22, European parliamentary elections are taking place across the country.

It's crucial in the run-up to the elections that the public know how to exercise their right to vote. Whether you've already decided who to vote for, or are still thinking about how to cast your vote, there's one vital step you need to take.

You need to register to vote now as time is running out. The deadline for registration is Tuesday, May 6.

Why does this matter? If you're not registered by the deadline then you won't be able to have your say on election day. You must be on the current electoral roll in order to cast a vote.

Our research shows that 44 per cent of people who are not registered to vote mistakenly believe they are. Many people believe that if they are registered to pay council tax then they are automatically registered to vote. This just isn't true.

Registering to vote is free, easy to do and only takes a few minutes. Visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk and print off a registration form, fill in your details and send it back to the local Electoral Registration Officer. Remember: it's your vote, don't lose it!

GARETH HALLIWELL,
Electoral Commissioner, Wales,
The Electoral Commission.

Cyfle olaf i gofrestru i bleidleisio ar gyfer etholiadau Mai

DDYDD Iau, Mai 22 mae etholiadau Senedd Ewrop yn cael eu cynnal ledled y wlad. Rhowch unryhw etholiadau perthnasol yn eich ardal.

Mae'n hanfodol yn y cyfnod cyn etholiadau bod y cyhoedd yn gwybod sut i arfer eu hawl i bleidleisio. P'un a'ch bod eisoes wedi penderfynu dros bwy i bleidleisio neu eich bod yn dal yn pendroni sut i bleidleisio, mae un cam hanfodol sydd angen i chi gymryd. Mae angen i chi gofrestru i bleidleisio nawr gan fod amser yn prinhau. Y dyddiad cau i gofrestru yw dydd Mawrth Mai 6.

Pam fod hyn yn bwysig? Os nad ydych wedi cofrestru i bleidleisio yna ni fyddwch yn cael dweud eich dweud ar ddiwrnod yr etholiad. Mae'n rhaid i chi fod ar y gofrestr etholiadol bresennol er mwyn gallu pleidleisio.

Mae ein hymchwil yn dangos bod 44 y cant o bobl nad ydynt wedi'u cofrestru yn credu eu bod wedi'u cofrestru. Mae nifer o bobl yn credu eu bod wedi'u cofrestru i bleidleisio yn awtomatig os ydynt yn talu treth gyngor. Dyw hyn ddim yn wir.

Mae cofrestru i bleidleisio am ddim, mae'n hawdd gwneud, ac mae'n cymryd ychydig funudau. Ewch i www.fymhleidlaisi.co.uk ac argraffwch ffurflen gofrestru, llenwch eich manylion a'i dychwelyd i'ch Swyddog Cofrestru Etholiadol lleol.

Cofiwch: eich pleidlais chi yw hi, peidiwch â'i cholli!

GARETH HALLIWELL.
Comisiynydd Etholiadol, Cymru,
Y Comisiwn Etholiadol.

Local family left frustrated by the theft of a £400 garden rotavator

A Llantwit Major family say they are frustrated that someone broke into their garden and stole a rotavator they use regularly on an allotment.

Rose Jones, who lives in Andrews Court, said the theft took place on Thursday, April 17.

She told The GEM: "It was stolen in broad daylight. I went out at 11.55am that Thursday. Alan, my partner, had gone out fishing early in the morning and got back at 3pm.

"He noticed the rotavator missing. It had been in the garden just under the kitchen window."

Rose regularly travels over to Barry where she cultivates an allotment, growing vegetables.

"We take the rotavator over to Barry on a trailer. It was worth about £400. It is very frustrating and disappointing that it has gone."

The family reported the theft and passed on a tip-off to the police that it may have been seen in a nearby garden. They are very concerned that as time passes whoever took it may have sold it on.

The police say they are investigating the incident and keen to speak to anyone who saw anything or who has information.

If anyone has information on the theft they can call the local police on 101 or phone Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Nathan's praise for charity

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Nathan added: "The centre is only a two-minute walk from my home. All my friends at Mind live locally. It is an invaluable community centre.

"It is open three days a week and the staff and volunteers will help with any problems you may have."

Mind also has centres in Barry and Penarth supporting other people.

Nathan has now finished his book.

"I have recovered enough to work again and to catch-up and finish my manuscript. It is on Amazon as an e-book. It is called 'Parallels' and contains paintings, poetry, photographs and a few short stories."

Nathan is a quietly spoken, gentle person who now exudes a calm confidence despite his lost decade.

"I am optimistic about the future, although I'll never be fully recovered.

" I am a totally different person now, but I am doing pretty well considering."

Nathan's book can be found on Amazon by putting a search in for 'Amazon, Nathan Hughes and Parallels'.

'Support the elderly' – RVS

PLEASE support Royal Voluntary Service's Great Brew Break by inviting friends, family or colleagues for a cuppa and a chat this week and make a donation, so we can help more lonely older people stay independent.

Royal Voluntary Service volunteers provide a vital lifeline for older people – whether that's help after a stay in hospital, a visit to a Royal Voluntary Service community centre, or just a simple cuppa and chat at home.

Please visit *www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/brewbreak* for more information.

SALLY RIVERS,
Head of operations for Royal Voluntary Service Cymru, Royal Voluntary Service, Beck Court, Cardiff Gate Business Park, Cardiff CF23 8RP.

Council's parking fine restraint wins approval

SOUTH Wales Central AM and Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, has expressed his concern over the sums generated by Welsh councils from parking charges.

He said that treating parking as a "cash cow" would harm local high streets.

In figures, the Vale Council is shown as the second lowest earner from parking charges in Wales.

The figures were published by the RAC Foundation, whose analysis of Welsh Government data has shown that Welsh councils generated £30 million last year from parking charges.

The Vale generated £318,000 compared to high earning Cardiff which raised £6.2 million.

Mr Davies said: "It is somewhat concerning that councils across Wales appear to be generating huge revenue streams through parking charges.

"I appreciate that some of the money collected through charges will be used to improve facilities or to pay for services, but prohibitive prices can have a damaging impact upon local high streets – particularly given the emerging trend for out of town shopping centres with free parking.

"This may be less of an issue in city-centres like Cardiff, but for high streets like Barry and Cowbridge, the availability of reasonably priced parking is essential, especially when public transport connections are often poor."

Mr Davies said he was "pleased that the Vale Council had so far resisted the opportunity to treat parking as a cash cow, a move that would harm local high streets and the wider Vale economy".

DID YOU KNOW... You can now read your GEM online - go to *www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk*

AM praises Vale Foodbank volunteers

THE local AM, Jane Hutt, joined Vale Foodbank volunteers at Tesco's in Barry's Highlight Park at the weekend, to praise them for their hard work and to thank shoppers for their donations.

She expressed strong support for the work of the Vale Foodbank, which is "helping vulnerable families and individuals in our communities across the county".

It was clear that foodbank use in the Vale has been increasing since the first foodbank was started by Coastlands Church.

The most recent distribution centre opened at St Mary's Church in Holton Road, Barry and is open on Friday afternoons.

ISLAND FUN

AT Barry Island Station this bank holiday weekend there will be stalls selling vintage ware and shabby-chic items, in addition to vintage trains on the railway.

The railway station will be open from 11.30am to 4pm each day on May 3, 4 and 5. Call 01446 748816 for more details, or visit www.barrytouristrailway.co.uk.

MP's blindfold bus journey in Barry

VALE MP Alun Cairns will undertake a blindfold bus ride in Barry on Friday (May 2) courtesy of Guide Dogs Cymru.

The event, starting at Barry Library at 11am, will highlight the problems faced by blind and partially sighted people in Wales are unable to enjoy the freedom that others take for granted because they find travelling by bus so difficult.

Guide Dogs is making a fresh call for all buses in Wales to feature next-stop audio announcements to help passengers with sight loss. Without such announcements, blind and partially sighted passengers have to rely on the driver, or people sitting near them, to tell them when they arrive at their stop.

Andrea Gordon, of Guide Dogs Cymru and a guide dog owner herself, said: "Audio announcements on buses make a huge difference to passengers with sight loss. Guide Dogs wants all buses to be Talking Buses, fitted with on-board audio-visual technology which announces bus routes, destinations and next stops.

"We also want more training for bus drivers, so they know how to support passengers who are blind and partially sighted."

SAM'S THE MAN TO INSPIRE YOUNG LOCAL PLAYERS!

Wales captain Sam Warburton (far left) and Herbert R Thomas staff with Cowbridge RFC mini rugby players.

BUDDING rugby players from Cowbridge had the opportunity to meet their Wales rugby idol, Sam Warburton, when he paid a special visit to meet the mini and junior teams from Cowbridge RFC.

The British and Irish Lions and Cardiff Blues back row ace delivered two questions and answer sessions to over 50 players, where they were able to pick up rugby tips and advice.

The event, which took place at the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge, was organised as part of the Cardiff Blues' 'Adopt a Player' programme, which provides every rugby club within the Blues' region with the opportunity to receive player visits directly to their club.

Philip Thomas, partner at Herbert R Thomas estate agents, which sponsors Cowbridge RFC, said: "A number of my nephews play for the junior team, so I was delighted when the club informed us that Sam would be attending a question and answer session in Cowbridge.

"Sam is a true inspiration to all of the players, as he clearly shows how hard work and determination will lead to success.

"At Herbert R Thomas, we have a strong link to rugby and Cowbridge RFC in particular, as many of our colleagues have relatives within the teams.

"All the players had a great evening, as did the parents who attended, and we'd like to thank Sam for taking the time out of his busy schedule to come down and talk to our team. We'd also like to thank the Bear Hotel for their hospitality."

Sam Warburton said: "It was great to come down to Cowbridge to meet the mini and junior teams. I love Cowbridge. My agent and auntie and uncle live here, so I'm often here.

"I really enjoy getting out into the community as part of the 'Adopt a Player' scheme and doing Q&As is always fun.

"It's interesting to hear the questions the kids have and it's always guaranteed to put a smile on my face.

"When I was in school, former Cardiff RFC player Ben Evans visited us and I remember being really inspired by him. I hope to have had a similar effect on these players."

PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK

Equine expert Eric stays the (Monmouthshire) course!

RIGHT: Winner Eric Dafydd being congratulated by Steve Cross, captain of the seniors' section at Cottrell Park.

THE Monmouthshire Golf Club, just outside Abergavenny and set against the beautiful scenery of the Usk Valley surrounded by The Blorenge, Sugar Loaf and Skirrid mountains proved the perfect location for the Spring away day for the senior members of Cottrell Park Golf Club, organised by captain of the seniors' section Steve Cross.

Officially opened in 1938 as an 18-hole course and developed over the same ground that once drew large crowds to enjoy the Monmouthshire races, including the famous National Hunt Chase, now firmly established as part of the Cheltenham Festival, this magnificent parkland course is well worth a visit.

It seems ironic therefore to report the first past the post with 39 stableford points to win the captain's Spring away day competition was Eric Daffydd, better known throughout the Vale for his vast knowledge and experience in the equine market.

Runner-up with 38 points was Bill Moore, with Gregor Munro taking third place, also with 38.

In fourth place with 37 was Ray Reakes followed by Brian Pritchard and David Stephenson also with 37 but an inferior back nine.

Steve Charlton hit the longest drive of the day on the selected 18th hole, while nearest the pin on the par three holes were Chris Stanlake, Edward Knott, Eric Daffydd, Mike Quick, Ray Rakes and Terry Scott.

The winners of the team prize with 115 points were Peter Archer, Edward Knott, Brian Pritchard and Bill Moore. In second place with 105 were Norman Cole, Mike Quick, David Hopkins and John Clarke and in third place with 104 were Graham Kellett, Eric Daffydd, Wyn Pryce-Jones and Aubrey Bowen.

TMcC

Cowbridge lift the Barry Cup!

Cowbridge Town FC won a dramatic match with Cardiff Airport on penalties last Sunday at Jenner Park, and in the process lifted the Barry Cup for the first time in their history. Here are a selection of images from the day.

Vale golfer heads junior order of merit

TIM HARRY (Vale Resort) continued his excellent start to the season with a tied eighth place finish at the Peter McEvoy Trophy at Copt Heath.

Harry returned rounds of 78, 72, 74 and 68 and was closely followed by Joshua Davies (Celtic Manor) who was a shot further back in 12th place with rounds of 70, 73, 76 and 74.

Harry gains 44.25 Hugh James points for his finishing position and 50 for making the cut (total of 94.25) and Davies 36 and 50 for a total of 86.

Trubshaw Cup

JACK DAVIDSON (Llanwern) ended in second place and best placed junior at the Trubshaw Cup with rounds of 79, 73, 73 and 71 at Tenby and Ashburnham Golf Clubs.

Davidson was closely followed by Tim Harry (Vale Resort) who finished two shots behind in third place with rounds of 80, 80, 69 and 69.

Davidson opens his Hugh James account with 120 points; Harry retains his overall lead with an additional 80.

Hugh James Order of Merit

AFTER the Trubshaw Cup:

First, Tim Harry (Vale Resort) 253.25; second, Joshua Davies(Celtic Manor) 181.6; third, Jack Davidson (Llanwern) 120; fourth, Lewys Sanges (Celtic Manor) 100; fifth, Thomas Froom (Nefyn) 60; sixth, Kyle Harman (Radyr) 50.

Barry Seconds beaten in final

BARRY 2nd XV ended their season as they travelled to Pentyrch on Thursday night to face Cardiff Metropolitan University in the East District Cup final.

With the daunting task of facing such a quality side, who have won the cup in the past seven years and have won every single game this season, coach Rhidian Scott and manager Ken Chow brought back Tony Heard in the front row, Einan Scott at outside half and Glynn Jones in the pack.

Luke Bounds, fresh from his try scoring return on the weekend, was included on the bench.

Barry did not get off to a great start, as the holders scored from their first attack of the game, a simple move in midfield piercing the green-and-whites' defence to score under the posts.

Roared on by a large travelling support, Barry rallied themselves and a series of forward drives saw Cardiff Met fall foul of the referee's whistle, but Einan Scott was unable to kick the three points from a difficult angle.

Cardiff Met then showed their class when their number 10 executed a perfect cross-field kick to see their winger collect before setting up a try in the corner.

More tries came and went as the holders justified their reputation, but Barry rallied on, aided by some superb tackling by Tiernan Scott, Glynn Jones and John Miles.

The loudest cheer of the day came late in the first half when a superb break from Einan Scott saw him put Ethan Dix in to score a memorable try. Scott himself added the extras.

Now showing more confidence, Barry tried to take the game to Cardiff Met and more aggressive approach play by the forwards and backs alike saw Joel Williams chip ahead, Dix chasing, but narrowly missing out on touching down in the corner.

Barry brought on fresh legs after the interval in an attempt to live with the cup holders' pace and finesse, and there were good contributions in defence by Mepham, Hewitson and Bounds.

Ultimately, however, a side of Cardiff Met's quality did find gaps in the tiring Barry defence and more tries came and went, especially late on when the green-and-whites were down to 14 men following the sin binning of Jason Thomas.

It was the predicted result – a handsome win by the seven-time winners, but Barry can leave the pitch with their head held high as they fronted up to quality opposition and showed superb attitude and commitment throughout the 80 minutes.

The management would like to thank all the players and supporters who made the journey up to create such a rousing atmosphere. The squad will hope to take the cup final memories onwards towards next season.

Team: T Scott; Adams, D Williams, Dix, Hamonda; E Scott, J Williams; Hosking, Vidal, Heard; G Jones, Case; L Jones, Miles, Rolfe ©. Replacements: Thomas, McTavish, Goodfellow, Hewitson, Mepham, Bounds, Flynn. Man of the match: Case.

KC

Brynhill golf club results

BRISTOL Cup qualifier results 2014:

1 Julian Hopkins & Glyn Morris 65; 2 Lee Price & Mickey Perry 66; 3 Kevin Perry & Steve Jones 67; 4 Kevin Williams & Mike Moore 67; 5 Wayne Adams & Sam Preston 67; 6 John Hardin & James Ham 68; 7 Alistair Woodward & Richard Bond 68; 8 Ryan Keedwell & Dan Peters 68; 9 John Wakefield & Elliot Cayton 68; 10 Carl Williams & Matthew Thomas 68; 11 Mark McCafferty & Joe Brookman 69; 12 Aeron Smith & Nathan Clissold 70; 13 Simon Pringle & Scott Warne 70; 14 Scott Bowman & Chris Phillips 70; 15 Mike Moore & Elliot Palmer 70; 16 Gareth Tinnuche & Steve Price 70.

MATCHPLAY DRAW

Julian Hopkins & Glyn Morris v Gareth Tinnuche & Steve Price; John Wakefield & Elliot Cayton v Ryan Keedwell & Dan Peters; Wayne Adams & Sam Preston v Aeron Smith & Nathan Clissold; Simon Pringle & Scott Warne v Kevin Williams & Mike Moore; Kevin Perry & Steve Jones v Scott Bowman & Chris Phillips; Mark McCafferty & Joe Brookman v John Hardin & James Ham; Alistair Woodward & Richard Bond v Carl Williams & Matthew Thomas; Mike Moore & Elliot Palmer v Lee Price & Mickey Perry.

CS

Romilly in action

THE bowls season opened at Romilly Bowls Club on Saturday with both the club side and 'A' team having games against Barry Athletic and The Murch respectively.

The club side played the Athletic in a friendly at the Island which was played in good spirit and with the forecast rain holding off, a close game was won by Romilly by three shots, 62-59.

This match gave the opportunity for both sides to loosen their arms in readiness for this Saturday's opening games in the Carruthers Shield.

Romilly 'A' team were involved in a more serious fixture, facing the Murch at Romilly Park in a SVLA match. The game was won by the Murch 58-72, but the Murch, thinking the game was a friendly, played a number of first team players giving them the overall advantage, winning on three of the four rinks.

This Saturday the Romilly club side entertain Kenfig Hill in the Carruthers Shield at The Park at 2.30pm, and the 'A' team travel to Llantwit Major for another SVLA match.

FP

Coach role for local team

THE Vale Ladies & Girls Football Club has an exciting opportunity for a new coach to play a key role in the development of its junior girls section for the 2014/15 season.

We are currently the largest club in the south Wales Women's & Girls league with over 100 active players with ages from seven to full senior adults.

The club are now looking for a dedicated coach to manage our under-10 section for the new season. Previous coaching experience is desirable but not essential and coach education courses are funded by the club.

A driving licence and access to a car is essential given the nature of the role as games take place on a Sunday morning across the south Wales area.

Anyone interested in this excellent opportunity should email their contact details to: valegirlsfc@gmail.com or contact Gino Esposito on 07772 022435.

LW

ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE

Gale Force Oscar storms home at Chepstow!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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GALE FORCE OSCAR, a nine-year-old brown gelding qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt, stormed home a very easy winner of the Dunraven Bowl Novices Hunter Chase at Chepstow Racecourse leaving a trail of well beaten horses in his wake.

Confidently ridden by leading Welsh rider John Mathias, Gale Force Oscar - described in the racecard by Timeform as a 'prolific winning Irish pointer' - finished an official 20 lengths ahead of Supreme Regime (Joe Knox) with Doc Wells (Nick Williams) a further four lengths away in third spot. Patricktom Boru (Evan David) was fourth.

Gale Force Oscar, who won four races on the bounce when trained in Ireland, landed a big gamble and was returned the 5-2 favourite.

John Mathias, who hails from Tenby, is bred into the sport. His grandfather Fred Mathias and father Philip were both leading amateur riders and the one thing he has in common with his father is that they are both recipients of the Wilkinson Sword Trophy, which is awarded to the leading riders under 21.

Philip was awarded his in 1982 and John his in 2007. John rode himself into the record books in 2011 when booting home six winners at the Tivyside, a feat never achieved before or since.

He has ridden well over 100 winners between-the-flags and has come close on a couple of occasions to winning the national point-to-point riders' championship.

On dismounting in the winners' enclosure, winning rider Mathias told me: "He had some good form in Ireland and he qualified for the race when finishing second to Chosen Milan at the Curre & Llangibby at Howick in March."

Winning owner/trainer Lee Power, a former professional footballer and chairman and owner of Swindon Football Club, has a point-to-point yard in the Port Talbot area.

Unfortunately, he missed see his horse win Wales' most prestigious point-to-pointers' race as he was in Portugal.

Mr Power owns the Saturday Racing Plus newspaper which also carries a point-to-point supplement.

'BRACEY' GREAT SUPPORTER OF WELSH RACING

The sponsor of the prestigious Dunraven Bowl Novices' Hunter Chase held at Chepstow Racecourse last Friday was David Brace OBE, the group chairman, founder and the inspiration behind Pyle-based Dunraven Windows.

'Bracey', as he is popularly known, who owns and manages the Dunraven Stud Farm at Pyle near Bridgend, has been a great supporter of the Welsh Turf, be it between-the-flags or under the full rules of the sport.

In June 2012, he was awarded hunt-racing's highest honour - the Point-To-Point Racing Company's Jim Mahon Industry Award. The award was created to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution to point-to-pointing and hunter chasing and Maesteg-born David was without doubt a worthy recipient.

A bigger honour was to come his way when in November 2012 he received a letter from 10 Downing Street informing him that he had been recommended for an OBE for his charity and business work.

Without the support of his wife Dawn and sons Matthew and Andrew, David admits he could not have pursued his horse racing and horse breeding activities.

As a young man, David worked alongside his father Evan at the local coal-mine. Little wonder then that it was his beloved father who had the biggest influence on his life.

A long time member of the Llangeinor Hunt, David has owned, bred and trained many winners over the years and he had the pleasure of seeing his Moon Catcher win at both Cheltenham and Aintree, the spiritual homes of steeplechasing.

During the 2012/13 hunt-racing season, he saddled 21 winners (six more than his nearest rivals) to land the National Leading Point-To-Point Owners Championship.

This season, he is already leading his rivals a merry gallop, and on Saturday, Cock Of The North was successful for him at the Farmers Bloodhounds fixture at Whitfield. Partnered by Sean Bowen, son of leading Welsh trainer Peter Bowen, Cock Of The North was his 13th winner of the season.

BRIAN LEE

COMPETITION SUCCESS FOR RHOOSE LIFEGUARDS AS INDIVIDUALS SHINE

Nipper Girls!

Emily Parker and Kiera Harris.

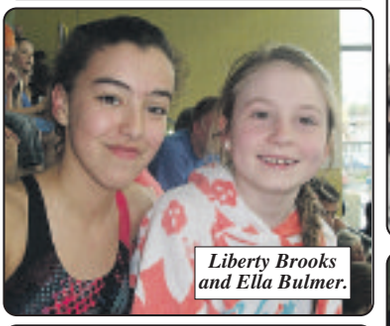
Elliana Phillips, Scarlett Davies, Sophia Reiley, Ellie Bryan and Ellis Hinton.

James Ashman and Jay and Ben Cummings.

Francesca Hopkins and Alex Moignard.

The masters team.

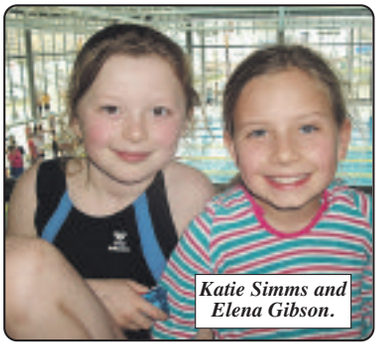
Medal Winners Simon Parker and Karen O'Donoghue-Harris.



Liberty Brooks and Ella Bulmer.

Alice Connelly and Evie Wong.

Members of the Nippers girls team.



Katie Simms and Elena Gibson.

Sam Jenkins and Jai Gerrish.

FOLLOWING a successful series of competition dates at the Welsh Stillwaters earlier in the year, the end of March and early April saw the Nipper, Junior and Masters teams from Rhoose Lifeguards compete in the British Surf Lifesaving Stillwater Championships.

Competing against teams from across England and Wales, held over two consecutive weekends, this year the competition was held at Hengrove Park Centre, Bristol for the Masters and locally at Cardiff International Pool for the Nipper and Junior teams.

Masters team: The competition began with the Masters travelling to Bristol on March 29. With the competition held over the course of the Saturday it was a busy day with many competitors taking part in four individual races as well as relays and rope throw events.

The Masters team put in some fantastic individual performances with gold medals awarded to Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Sian Frith and Darron Corden.

The male team achieved second place and the female finished in third place. The Masters secured a rewarding overall second place out of the 16 clubs competing, matching individual medal winners: Karen O'Donoghue-Harris – silver Manikin Carry with Fins, gold Manikin Tow with Fins. Sian Frith – gold Obstacle Race, gold Manikin Carry, gold Manikin Carry with Fins, gold Manikin Tow with Fins. Richard Davidson – bronze Obstacle Race, bronze Rescue Medley. Simon Parker – bronze Manikin Carry with Fins, silver Rescue Medley. Steve Baker – bronze Manikin Carry, bronze Rescue Medley. Darron Corden – gold Obstacle Race, gold Manikin Carry, gold Manikin Carry with Fins, gold Rescue Medley.

Nipper team: Saturday, April 5 saw the turn of the Rhoose Nippers team to compete, this year at Cardiff International Pool.

The Nipper team are the youngest competitors of the club and after some 'first race nerves' the competition got off to a great start with all Nippers thoroughly enjoying the events.

Nearly all of the Nipper team had competed at the recent Welsh Championships and were keen to match or better their times from the previous competition.

With many of the age groups having between 40 and 60 competitors, spread over many heats, the Nippers achieved some very good positions and personal best times.

Special congratulations to Evie Wong who won bronze in the Flipper Race, silver in the Manikin Race and gold in the Board Race.

The Nippers achieved came away with an overall position of ninth place out of the 23 teams with the girls' category achieving a very respectable sixth position.

Junior team: Finally it was the turn of the Juniors to compete on Sunday, April 6, again at Cardiff International Pool, for what again was to be a packed day of events.

With co-ordinator Steve Baker away, team member Kathryn Gardner led the team of Juniors on the day.

As with the Nippers the previous day, many of the Juniors had a very high number of competitors in their races but secured some very confident places in the individual and relay events.

The Junior team would like to thank everyone who helped on the day with time keeping and other poolside duties.

The Junior team finished the day with an overall position of tenth out of the 24 clubs competing. Well done to the Junior team!

Overall teams: Nipper team: Ellie Bryan, Elliana Phillips, Scarlett Davies, Sophia Reiley, Lena Davies, Elena Gibson, Xantia Hobrough, Katie Sims, Moli Lyons, Evie Wong, Ella Bulmer, Eloise Strange, Yasmin Davies, Francesca Hopkins, Alice Connolly, Alex Moignard, Kiera Harris, Emily Parker, Brooke Peterson, Liberty Brooks, Helen Jenkins, Jay Cummings, Robert Grice, James Ashman, Cai Beasley, Ellis Hinton, Jamie Jenkins, Ben Cummings, Jai Gerrish, Sam Jenkins, Cian Davies, Taran Downton, Morgan Jenkins, Oliver Wong.

Junior team: Finn Rees Alex Parry, Jason Grice, Rhys Gardner, Ellie Peterson, Kelsea Peterson, Kathryn Gardner, Lauren Blake, Kirby Redrup, Maisie James, Emily Baker, Sara Phillips.

Masters team: Dominic Lee, Richard Davidson, Darron Corden, Steve Baker, Simon Parker, Karen O'Donoghue-Harris, Sian Frith, Sarah Bryant.

Rhoose Lifeguards Club would like to thank all of the parents and coaches who have given up their time at the competitions and training sessions over the winter months.

Thanks also to all of those from the club who regularly help with time keeping and other duties – we couldn't attend these competitions without you!

The GB Stillwater Championship brings a close to the indoor pool-based competitions for the club but very soon the beach and sea training and summer competitions get under way.

Next up is the Rhoose Surf Ski Race which takes place at Font-y-Gary on Sunday, May 11 with racing starting at around noon onwards for all those who like to see some first class paddlers competing – further details can be found on the Rhoose Lifeguards website www.rhooselifeguards.co.uk

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RICS

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday, April 15, the champions Llanharry remained unbeaten winning 7-2 against the Farmers Arms.

However, the runners-up, the Edmondes B, only narrowly defeated the Edmondes A, 5-4.

This result establishing the Edmondes A as favourites to take third spot, even though the Hare and Hounds defeated the Cross Inn 7-2 and the Edmondes C won 6-1 against the Star Inn.

Unfortunately, neither the Edmondes C nor the Star Inn could field a full team that evening. This is a timely reminder that most teams are usually on the lookout for new players. The Old Post Ladies lost 3-6 against the Highwayman Inn.

The league standings with just one set of matches remaining are: Llanharry (137 points), Edmondes B (115), Edmondes A (79), Edmondes C and Hare and Hounds (78), Farmers Arms (72), Cross Inn (71), Highwayman Inn (70), Old Post Ladies (37), The Star Inn (26).

On Tuesday, April 29, the league programme concludes. The Edmondes B hosts the Old Post Ladies, the Farmers Arms hosts the Hare and Hounds, the Star Inn hosts the Edmondes A, the Edmondes C hosts Llanharry, while the Highwayman Inn hosts the Cross Inn. The first matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are welcome.

On Tuesday, April 8, the finals night line-up in the Men's Singles was determined in an evening of high quality darts at the Edmondes Arms.

In the first semi-final Cedric Simmonite (Edmondes A) defeated Paul Butcher (Edmondes B) and will face John Davies (Edmondes C) in the final. John Davies defeated Victor John (Llanharry) in the other semi-final.

On Tuesday, May 6, the team knockout competition, the Great Western Cup, concludes. The semi-final line-ups are as follows; Highwayman Inn versus the Cross Inn and the Hare and Hounds versus Llanharry.

All matches are to be played at the Edmondes Arms with the first match starting at 8.30pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

It is time to start thinking about next season! Join a team or if a group of you is interested in forming a team (six players minimum) and your local pub is willing to host you, get in touch and register your interest.

PJT

Bridgend bridge club

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for Wednesday, April 23:

First, Laura Woodruff and Mike Close; second, John Henson and Geoff Tinkler; third, Geoff Barnes and Peter Bugden.

Friday, April 25: First, John Whateley and Andy Robertshaw; second, Bill Turner and John Raymond; third, John Henson and Terry Dolan.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesdays and Fridays at Nolton Church Hall at 7pm. We try to start play at that time so it helps if people arrive 10 minutes early.

The cheese and wine evening in aid of Bridgend Samaritans, has been moved to May 9, to which all bridge players are welcome.

DN

Bowlers in friendly action

COWBRIDGE men bowlers played their second friendly match away against Bridgend Municipal and acheived a hard fought draw, 62-62.

The best win was on skip Alan Wallace's rink with Ron Frayling, Phil Woosman and Guy Morton, and they won 16-8.

The rink with Bryan Hole, Mick Davey, Brian Williams and skip Norman Wilkinson won 17-15 after winning two well needed shots on the last end.

Captain Steve Dickens' rink, with John Collin, Ron Woolford and Rob Lewis, also needing and scoring two shots on the last end, won 17-16.

The only losing score was on skip Dennis Snelling's rink, with Gerwyn Watkins, Len Taylor and Clive Prichard.

They lost 12-23, but by picking up seven shots on the last three ends, they helped the match end in a draw.

The ladies' friendly match at Pencoed was cancelled due to rain. They played their friendly match at Llantwit Major in sunshine, and although they won on two rinks, they lost the match 51-66.

Skip Joan Bradley's rink with Diane Purnell, Caryl Davies and Pat Holdsworth had a good win, 20-11. On the rink with Diane Lloyd, Dorothy Prichard, Joy Woolford and skip Sue Flower, after a really good game, they won 13-12.

Skip Shirley Wilkinson's rink with Kay Edwards, Phyllis Price and Janet Morton lost 8-23, and skip Jan Lewis, Sylvia Hole and Mary Dowdle, playing triples, lost 10-20.

The men played their third friendly away to local team Rhoose but suffered a heavy defeat of 64 shots to 88, with only one winning rink.

Skip Roger Barwick, with Ron Frayling, Bryan Hole and Byron Richards had a good win, 22-12. On the three losing rinks, skip Bryan Kent's team only just lost 20-23, skip Guy Morton and team lost 13-30, and skip Dennis Snelling and team lost 9-23.

The next match is more serious, our first Carruthers Shield match away at Penarth Windsor.

NJW

UNDER-16S SAY FAREWELL TO JUNIOR RUGBY

COWBRIDGE under-16s played their final game of junior rugby on the fabulous first team pitch of Carmarthen Quins in Carmarthen.

Ed Lucas and Dan Williams have been wonderful coaches to the boys many of whom remained in the squad from their under-7 mini rugby days and are progressing next season to play youth rugby for the club.

The boys were up against a very capable side in Carmarthen Quins who had already won the Carmarthenshire Cup this year and will play in the final of the Scarlets regional cup in a few weeks time.

Conditions were perfect with a superb pitch and dry weather which was further improved by flanker Joe Davies cutting through the Quins' backs to open the score within the first five minutes - the try ably converted by Luke Bevan.

Cowbridge went further ahead with a typically opportunistic try scored by Tom Lucas who had been with the Wales under-16 squad for the past few weeks and had been unable to play for Cowbridge - again Luke Bevan added the extra points.

The Quins had an enormous pack and the Cowbridge eight had to work hard all afternoon to keep them in check - however they could not stop the Quins scoring two tries from driving mauls within five minutes to get themselves back into the game.

The Cowbridge boys were determined to finish their last game with a win and further tries from Tom Evans and Luke Bevan contributed to a final score of 26 - 22 in favour of Cowbridge.

All of the parents would like to convey an enormous thank you to Dan and Ed not only for the rugby guidance that they have given over the years but for the fairness and fun that they have brought to the team – the season will be rounded off with a 'Dads & Lads' tour to Spain in July.

Squad: George Thomas, Jack Anderson, Tom Evans, Craig Boxall, Harry Jehu, Jac Davies, Ed Couzens, Ellis Poulden, Luke John, Joe Davies, Hywel Williams, Tom Lucas, Ashford Thomas, Rian Thomas, Pete Anderson, Luke Bevan, Fraser McGhan, Ben Jones, Josh Brace, Tom Trotman, Eugene Richards, James Bennett, Jonny Harvey.

GD

Evan's winning form at Lydstep

LLANHARAN'S Evan David made every post a winning one on Brian Llewellyn's Wiston Dreamer in the hunt members' race at the Tivyside & Carmarthenshire at Lydstep last Sunday.

A 6-1 chance,Wiston Dreamer, who had failed to complete the course in his previous four outings, won easily from the odds-on favourite In The West.

Ogmore's Nick Williams, who earlier this season clocked up his 150th winner between-the-flags, riding the Amber Griffiths trained second string Shanks A Lot did well to win the open maiden race as his mount made several mistakes.

BRIAN LEE

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LLANTWIT MAJOR - £255,000

Spacious four bedroom detached house with integral garage and conservatory. Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Cloakroom, En-suite bathroom/shower to two bedrooms, family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Ref 748D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £127,500

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LLANTWIT MAJOR - £185,000

Spacious modern two bedroom end of terrace house located on the beach road comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Cloakroom, Rear Porch, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Terraced garden to the rear. Ref 751D.

ST ATHAN VILLAGE - £185,000

Modern spacious detached three storey residence with integral garage, Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Dining room/4th Bedroom, Bathroom. Two bedrooms and Cloakroom/WC to first floor and further bedroom to the lower ground floor. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows for the most part. Driveway and garden to front and rear. Ref 739D.

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NEW ON THE MARKET

ST ATHAN VILLAGE - £104,950

Established three bedroom semi-detached house comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast room. Shower Room. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway and garden to front and rear. No Chain. Freehold. Ref 758D

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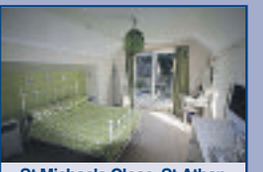

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Renewable heating for council homes

THE Vale Council has entered into a contract with a local company to install renewable heating at a number of its council homes this spring.

The homes are off the main gas grid and are classed as 'hard to treat' because they are expensive to improve and are extremely costly to heat for the families living in them.

Six homes in the rural Vale will have ground source heat pumps and solar water heating installed as part of the project. Homes in Llandow and Marcross were chosen due to their suitable locations, the families' enthusiasm for the innovative heating improvements and the current poor heating systems.

Coun Bronwen Brooks said: "I am delighted that we are using innovative technology in our tenants' homes to help them to drive down their heating costs.

"Too many people live in fuel poverty and I am committed to finding ways to tackle this in the Vale."

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Cavatina concert

CAVATINA Singers, Penarth, celebrate 30 years of making music on Saturday, May 17, at 7.30pm in All Saints' Church, Victoria Square, Penarth.

To mark its anniversary, the choir will perform a new, specially commissioned piece for SATB chorus and piano – 'A Life in a Day' by Penarth based composer, Ian Lawson.

The programme will also include John Rutter's 'The Sprig of Thyme', a cycle of folk-song settings as well as pieces by Elgar, Mansel Thomas, Frank Tichieli and Thomas Morely. Tickets, £8, include a complimentary drink and canapes.

Tickets can be bought on the night or from Foxy's Deli, Penarth. Find out more about Cavatina Singers on www.cavatinasingers.org.uk.

Advice surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding a surgery on Friday, May 2, at Morrisons Supermarket, Barry, between 1pm and 2pm. No appointment is necessary.

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Public Notices

RHYBUDD O GADARNHAU GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS ADRAN 119 DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS 5 LARNOG) GORCHYMYN AILGYFEIRIO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2014

Ar 15 Ebrill 2014, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod.

Effaith y Gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhawyd fydd ailgyfeirio'r llwybr troed cyhoeddus yn y modd a welir yn yr Atodlen ac ar fap y Gorchymyn.

Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn, i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn ystod yr wythnos yn y cyfeiriad isod, rhwng 9:00am a 4:00pm o 1 Mai 2014 hyd 12 Mehefin 2014. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 1 Mai 2014. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam, yn dymuno holi ynghylch dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddarpariaeth ynddo, am nad yw o fewn pwerau Deddf Priffyrdd, ynteu na chydymffurfiwyd â gofynion y Ddeddf neu reoliadau a wnaed o dani wrth gadarnhau'r Gorchymyn, caiff yr unigolyn hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys o dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf drwy weithrediad paragraph 5 Atodlen 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos o 1 Mai 2014.

Dyddiedig 1 Mai 2014

Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu, Swyddfeydd y Dociau, Heol yr Isffordd, Y Barri, CF63 4RT

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER SECTION 119 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO.5 LAVERNOCK) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014

On the 15th April 2014 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert part of the public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9:00am and 4:00pm on weekdays from 1st May 2014 until 12th June 2014. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 1st May 2014, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 1st May 2014 make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 1st May 2014

Director of Development Services Dock Offices, Subway Road, Barry, CF63 4RT

RHYBUDD O WNEUD GORCHYMYN DEDDF PRIFFYRDD 1980 CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG (LLWYBR TROED CYHOEDDUS 18 Y BARRI) GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2014

Bydd y gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd ar 15 Ebrill 2014, o dan Adran 119 Deddf Priffyrdd 1980, yn ailgyfeirio rhan o Llwybr Troed Cyhoeddus 18 Y Barri, sy'n rhedeg o GGC 311097 169429 hyd at GGC 311452 169451 drwy ei ailosod ar linell sy'n rhedeg o GGC 311097 169429 hyd at GGC 311452 169451, fel y'i dangosir ar fap y gorchymyn.

Mae copïau o'r gorchymyn a'r map wedi'u gosod, a chewch eu gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol. Cewch brynu copïau o'r map a'r gorchymyn yn y fan honno am £4.50 yr yn.

Cewch wneud sylwadau ar y Gorchymyn neu'i wrthwynebu drwy anfon llythyr at Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT erbyn 29 Mai 2014, a dylech nodi eich rhesymau dros ymateb.

Os na ddaw sylwadau neu wrthwynebiadau i law, neu os caiff y rhai a dderbyniwyd eu tynnu'n ôl, bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn rhydd i gadarnhau bod y Gorchymyn yn ddiwrthwynebiad. Os caiff y gorchymyn ei anfon at Weinidogion Cymru ar gyfer ei gadarnhau, bydd y sylwadau a'r gwrthwynebiadau nas tynnwyd yn ôl, yn cael eu hanfon ar yr un pryd.

Dyddiedig 1 Mai 2014

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

NOTICE OF MAKING OF AN ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 18 BARRY) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2014

The above order, made on the 15th day of April 2014, under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, will divert part of the Public Footpath No 18 Barry running from NGR 311097 169429 to NGR 311452 169451 to a line running from NGR 311097 169429 to NGR 311452 169451 as shown on the order map.

A copy of the order and the order map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at The Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT during normal office hours. Copies of the order and map may be bought there at the price of £4.50.

Any representations about or objections to the order may be sent in writing to the Director of Development Services, Docks Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT not later than the 29thth day of May 2014. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Vale of Glamorgan Council may confirm the order as an unopposed order. If the order is sent to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the order.

Dated this 1st day of May 2014

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern, I/We, **RUMURS BARRY LTD**, do hereby give notice of an application to The Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the variation to premises licence at 12-14 Broad Street, Barry known as **GORDON BENNETTS RUMURS, BARRY LTD**

The application is to vary the licence.

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application. The maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Signed: R.E.D. Hopkins
Dated 25th April, 2014.

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Birthdays

JOE BAKER

Happy 14th Birthday on 5th May

Lots of love from your biggest fans Mum, Dad, Abi & all the family xxx

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY • HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY

Megan Osborne

Happy **18th** Birthday Meg

(6th May)

All our love Mum, Dad & Grace xxx

HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY • HAPPY 18th BIRTHDAY

ABIGAIL MAKER

Happy 1st Birthday!

Abigail 3rd May

Lots of love, Nanny Lyn, Gramps and big brother Jayden xxxx

Family Notices

NORMAN

Don

On Wednesday, 23rd April, Don, dearest husband of Barbara and a treasured father, grandpa, brother and friend.

Resting at Southfields Funeral Home until the service at St John the Baptist Newton Church, Porthcawl on Wednesday, 7th May at 12 noon, followed by interment at Porthcawl Cemetery at 12.45pm. Family flowers only please, by request. For further enquiries contact Evan E Thomas & Sons, Southlands, South Road, Porthcawl, CF36 3DA. Telephone 01656 783383.

DAY

Henry Alfred - 'Harry'

Sadly passed away at Bella Vista Nursing Home on April 26, 2014, aged 88 years. Dear father to Clive, Sheila, Julia and Beverly. Loving grandfather and great grandfather, and dearest friend to Marge.

Harry will be missed by all his family and friends he loved.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry, until his funeral service at Barry Cemetery chapel on Friday May 9 at 12pm, followed by interment at 12.30pm in the cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the funeral directors or donations may be made at the service in memory of Harry to the Stroke Association.

Family Notices

LLEWELLYN

Mary

Peacefully on Tuesday April 22 at Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend, Mary of Great House Farm, Penllyne, beloved wife of the late Peter, devoted mother of Christine, David and Rob, mother-in-law of Robert, Talina and Tina, loving grandmother of Rhiannon, Huw, Rhys, William, Tom and the late Claire, and great grandmother of Oliver and Mali.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday May 9, service 1.30pm at Penllyne Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend at 2.45pm.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Ward 2 Stroke Unit, Princess of Wales Hospital c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

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GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA...

Poor response to community cabinet

THE success of the community meetings held by Alun Cairns MP, at the end of last year, demonstrates that many people are interested in local affairs and are eager to attend public meetings.

So it is clear that when this week's Vale Council community cabinet meeting, held in St Athan on Monday at 6pm, attracted no members of the public (except me), something is wrong with how the council engages with the public.

The community cabinet meeting in St Athan was abandoned after 30 minutes, rewarding the cabinet for their failure by allowing them home 90 minutes early – whilst the public picked up the costs associated with the meeting.

The council generally doesn't advertise these community meetings on its website, on social media, on notice boards or in the local press, with a few exceptions such as last month's meeting in Penarth.

I have attended meetings in Cowbridge and Barry, where just six people turned up to question the cabinet. Interestingly, one of the best attended meetings was in Peterston-Super-Ely at 2pm, when the local community council seized the initiative and promoted the event in their community – and word reached groups in Barry who also attended.

The community cabinet meetings are held, according to the council's website, due to a "vow to make local decision-making more transparent and inclusive." It would seem that the cabinet has failed to achieve its goal.

I knew about the St Athan meeting because I proactively asked the right question of someone who knew about this "secret" community cabinet meeting...

Ian Perry, St Nicholas.

Calling all Cubs at Llancarfan!

IN 1948, an 18-year-old land girl by the name of Ruth Groves was posted to work for Mr Harry Dale at Ty Mawr, Llanbethery.

She soon was involved in the community, attending church and joining in other organisations.

She soon identified that there was no Cub Scout group in the area and that there were many boys of that age in the village.

Using her training as a Girl Guide Ranger, she formed a Cub Scout group, made up of Mary Griffiths, Top End boys John and Godfrey (Andrew was too young), Cliff and Eva Morgan's boys, the Lee boys, Mrs Dorothy Price, Pancross boys, and many others.

Clive Jenkins recalls that when he spoke to Ruth whilst wearing his Cub uniform, he stood to attention; he doesn't explain whether it was with respect or fear!

I also remember, as Ruth's husband, 54 years of duty called; orders such as 'don't be late for dinner'.

Later, while living at Abernant, Ruth became a school dinner supervisor at Llancarfan School and for many years worked at the Fox and Hounds for Edgar Balchin and Trixie Phillips, putting into place arrangements for wedding receptions.

Recently, I have placed a seat at The Llancarfan Society Pétanque Piste, adjoining the tennis court, School Hill, to commemorate Ruth's life in Llancarfan.

On Sunday, May 4, Clive Jenkins and his sister Barbara have promised to meet me there to sit and recall days gone by from 2pm.

In the event of wet weather, the village hall will be open for a cup of tea or refreshments of choice (bring your own!)

If anyone wishes to join us, they will be most welcome, particularly members of the Cub families, who may want to share where they've been and what they've been up to for the past 65 years!

Weather permitting, attendees may be interested in being introduced to the game of pétanque (boule) as well.

Phil Watts, Barry.

More growth in Wales?

I REFER to Jane Hutt's GEM article on April 24 – 'More growth in Wales than rest of UK'.

How can she claim such success with employment after Labour's First Minister was caught using dodgy statistics to back up his claim that youth unemployment in Wales is the lowest of all UK nations?

Especially when the most authoritative data from the International Labour Organisation shows Wales has the highest unemployment in the UK!

This is in spite of the four billion pounds worth of European funding that has been channelled into the Welsh economy since 2000, specifically to west Wales and the Valleys; and what good has it done, when 15 Welsh authorities still qualify for convergence (EU charity) funding?

And guess what? Labour's about to throw another two billion pounds into yet more job creation schemes.

Meanwhile, we don't even have decent bus services outside of Cardiff.

Gordon Wilkie, Llantwit Major (Conservative).

Volunteers and the libraries...

IT is with great dismay that I heard about possible library closures in our area – I hope this is not true.

Also libraries that remain will be run by volunteers. How can this be? I have worked in the library service and had to produce qualifications to secure a post and also attend expensive courses, such as the ECDL, at the behest of management.

The banks had problems due to mismanagement. Is this what has happened to libraries who have had a lot of expensive equipment installed in the last few years?

Will managers be affected at all, or will they remain in post? Their job is to manage, which means to control and administer correctly.

Thousands of pounds have been spent on the Mayor's parlour, and chairs costing hundreds of pounds each for the councillors to sit on seem an inordinate waste, as few members of the public ever see them.

The library is the centre for knowledge and a meeting place socially for the public who, after all, pay rates in large sums for that privilege.

I have grandchildren struggling to achieve qualifications.

Should I tell them not to bother, as volunteers seem to be the solution to money problems – and it may happen next in schools and hospitals?

I accept the lack of black bin bags, but I do not accept the absence of my library as I know it.

L Gatt, Barry.

Let councillors take the lead!

THERE is talk that the Vale Council is proposing staff in four libraries in the Vale be reduced and then volunteers are to run these libraries on a reduced basis.

I challenge the council to lead from the front and for four councillors to volunteer their services, with no recompense from the council.

They must publicly show that over a six-month period they operated as full councillors and drew no money from the council.

In other words, they have volunteered! Do this and prove to the people who elect you that you are prepared to operate as you ask others to do. I await your response.

Charles Ian Allen, Boverton.

Arthritis support

AGE CONNECT Cardiff & Vale are holding a support session at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry, where professional advice will be available from Arthritis Care in Wales, on May 6 (from 10am-12noon)

This will include informaion on support services for those with this condition, and what other help is available, both practical and emotional.

Call 01446 732385 for further information.

Sponsor Tosh Taylor with Dan Jarvis, captain Mike King, winner Clive Edwards and Tim Jarvis.

Clive triumphs at golf meeting

The monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held last Thursday, April 24, at Cardiff Golf Club – with 30 competitors all attempting to win the Vale's own version of the famous 'Walker Cup' supplied and sponsored by Cowbridge based solicitors Gaskell & Walker Ltd.

The tree-lined fairways that are a feature at this prestigious club, proved quite a hazard, with many hard - luck stories being shared later in the clubhouse.

Difficult pin positions and wet conditions under foot also contributed to the low scores being returned with a few members even considering disposing of their clubs via e-bay!

However, credit must be given to Colwinston farmer and Dragon boat racer Clive Edwards who overcame such distractions to return a winning score of 30 stableford points to collect first prize from generous sponsor Mr Anthony Taylor.

A superior back nine by Dan Jarvis proved crucial enabling him to claim the runner up position from his father Tim both finishing with 29 points. Clive Thomas with 28 points finished fourth.

Overseas visitor Chris Premock, a resident of Sudbury near Boston, USA, and the son-in-law of society member John and Andrea Caines, enjoyed his final day in the UK to return the highest score of the day to win the guest section with 31 points.

Nearest the pin on the 'Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant' sponsored par 3 holes were Richard Jones, Julian Kelly, Dan Jarvis, Tosh Taylor, Tim Jarvis and Griff Morgan while Martin Edwards collected the 'Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored prize for hitting the longest drive on the selected hole.

Godfrey Lewis correctly guessed 29 balls would fail to make the journey home to collect the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whiskey resulting in £90 being shared between Velindre Hospital and The Alzheimer's Society adding to the magnificent sum of £3,000 raised by Tosh Taylor's daughter Catherine who recently competed in the London marathon.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, at the Grove Golf Club when members will be playing their annual medal competition for the Shrieval Trophy, sponsored by Mr Mark Rees and family.

A reminder to golfers reading this column that it is not too late to enter the Kelly & Harris charity golf day in aid of Velindre hospital scheduled for Friday, May 16, at the Grove Golf Club. Further details can be obtained from event organiser Mrs Pam Harris on 01446 772057.

Nipper Jewell Knock Out competition 2nd round: Chris Rooney v David Williams; Godfrey Lewis v Keith Davies; Mike King v Mike Lee; Mark Rees v Griff Morgan; Keith James v Neil McLean; Martin David v Geraint Davies; Gareth Perkins v Glyn Watts-Jones; Bryan Owen v Dan Jarvis. Matches to be played by Thursday, May 29.

TMcC

Dutch rugby team highlights June Armed Forces Day

THE Dutch visiting side from s-Hertogenbosch proved emphatic winners over Army Reserve (Wales) in what could become an annual rugby event.

The Dutch side was handicapped by losing no less than 10 players called for duty with their national side, but even so managed an 18-11 victory over the fledgling Army Reserve side.

The game, billed as the opener to the run-up to Armed Forces Day Wales on June 28 was played at Cowbridge between two teams mindful of the significant historic implications of the meeting.

"It is important that we keep the remembrance," said Dutch team organiser Maikel Weyes, who is also a committee member of the Society of October 1944, responsible for the city's commemorations.

"This game was suggested by the Armed Forces Day organisers and of course we had to accept. Hopefully next year, a team will come out to us from Wales and we will keep the connection going."

In 1944, 70 years ago, the largely Territorial 53rd Welsh Division liberated s-Hertogenbosch with a loss of over 146 lives.

The Dutch city has never forgotten, and each year celebrates its liberation. But 70 years on, the number of veterans still alive has dwindled and reluctantly the city has decided that this year will be the last big commemoration.

In June, the mayor of s-Hertogenbosch will lead an 80-strong band and 100-strong choir, as well as a group of some 22 cyclists, who will cycle from s-Hertogenbosch to Wales carrying with them a Davy lamp that will have been lit from the eternal flame at the local British War Cemetery (where those killed in liberating the city are buried) to take part in Armed Forces Day in Cardiff.

Doug McArthur

Local pioneers are giving an American sport Welsh flavour!

Back row (left to right): Peter Butler; Ben Phillips; Lee McCabe; Jon Creighton-Griffiths; James Hayes; Charlie Hopkin; Martin Swift; Rhys Jones; Marc Longworth; James Malatynski; Oceanne Esparcieux; Oon Robbins. Front row: Cliff Osbourne; Marcus Jenkins; James Clarke; Luke Ashton; Chris Smith; Luke Mainwaring; Meredith (the Ieuan man); Sam Clements. Photograph by Pete Florey of MDP Images.

A LLANTWIT MAJOR man is captaining south Wales' only male roller derby team, and says the sport is making great progress now after three hard years getting it off the ground.

In fact, the south Wales men made up a large part of the team when Wales recently competed at the first men's Roller Derby World Cup, held in Birmingham in March

A total of 15 teams competed from all over the world, with skaters coming from the USA, Japan, Canada, Argentina, Australia and all over Europe, with Wales attending as the smallest nation.

Charlie Hopkin, the captain, a local lad from Llantwit Major, has been working to establish a south Wales team (called SWS – the South Wales Siliures).

The majority of the squad is local, and they train in Cogan Leisure Centre.

Charlie said: "The boys fought hard for their country to make their mark on the inaugural tournament. They were sixth, narrowly missing out on fifth place to Australia by one point in a nail biting finish."

The GEM asked if getting a quintessentially American sport off the ground in the UK was difficult, and Charlie said: "Most people pull a funny face and ask about the James Caan film *Rollerball* whenever the sport roller derby is mentioned.

"Despite a continued growth in popularity throughout Wales and the rest of the UK, the sport is largely unheard of.

"For those that have experienced it first hand though, it is obvious that roller derby is here to stay.

ABOVE and BELOW: The Welsh team in action. Photographs by John Hesse.

"Its fast-paced and hard -itting nature draws the attention of most who have attended a game".

He continued: "These days, the sport has developed into a complicated but fun melee of 'blockers' (whos role is self explanatory) and 'jammers' (the less obviously named point scorers) whizzing about a flat oval track competing to score points by passing opponents.

"The jammers are the only players eligible to score, and they do so by passing opposing players, there is one jammer on track for each team during the two-minute 'jams'.

"The remaining four blockers of each team must try and help their jammer through the defence of the opposition's pack, while simultaneously trying to block the opposing Jammer."

He continued: "This addictive, high octane sport has been pioneered in south Wales by a dedicated group of ladies who call themselves the Tiger Bay Brawlers.

"During the early days of their rise to become one of the top seeded competing teams in Europe, the brawlers recruited and trained a handful of guys to help out refereeing their games.

"After realising how much fun the ladies were having, it wasn't long before there were talks of starting our very own team".

Charlie conceded: "It is a tough job trying to recruit guys for a roller derby team when nobody has heard of the sport; it is primarily played by women.

"It seemed like an impossible task at times, but after three years (give or take) of perseverance, empty sessions, last minute hall bookings, chalked tracks and lots of sweat, the south Wales derby scene is looking strong.

"Its first men's roller derby team SWS (Welsh for kiss) – The South Wales Silures, now has upwards of 20 regular members, and recently contributed a large portion of the Welsh team who took part in the inaugural roller derby world cup in Birmingham in March."

All games are archived online at *www.MRDWC.com*.

For more information, contact the Siliures via their Facebook page, or come along for a chat at one of their training sessions at Cogan Leisure Centre every Sunday between 12noon and 2pm.

CALLING ALL CLUB OFFICIALS!
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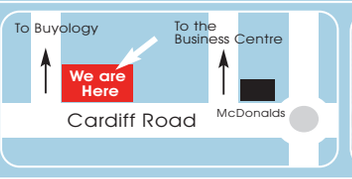

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Joseph ready to face off against 'The Warriors'!

A local Tae Kwon Do champion has been selected for the TAGB (Tae Kwon Do Association of GB) team that will face 'The Warriors' in an exclusive Clash of the Titans event.

The competition will be fast and fierce as the two teams compete against each other in Huddersfield shortly. Current Taekwondo Open World Champion, Joseph Schembri of Vale-based JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness, was chosen based on his extensive experience and expertise.

He will be joined by fellow Welshmen Carl Betty who is the European Champion, World Lightweight Champion Matthew Jackson and national title holder John Cregg. The TAGB team is handpicked from fighters throughout the whole of Britain so their selection gives Wales a strong presence within the team of twelve.

The event organisers, Martial Arts Illustrated, the UK's top selling martial arts magazine, chooses their opponents, the 'Warriors'.

These are a select group of martial artists from around the world, covering many disciplines including kickboxing, karate and kung fu.

The TAGB and the Warriors will commence battle this weekend in this no holds barred competition, with the team scoring the most points being victorious. Joseph said: "I am excited to be fighting in this prestigious event especially as there is a history of intense competition between the two teams.

"This year's clash looks set to be no exception to what is always a hard-fought contest".

Anyone wishing to try out this sport should visit jstkd.co.uk for details of classes throughout Barry and the Vale, with specific programmes available for ages three years through to adults. **VW**

Joseph Schembri.

Public gets sporting chance!

A TOTAL of 81 local sports clubs and organisations were awarded funding totalling £92,220.89 in the past year – thanks to the Community Chest scheme.

The scheme is a Sports Wales initiative, managed locally by the Vale Council's Sports and Play Development Team.

It offers start-up grants of up to £1,500 for community sport and activities that encourage more people to be more active, more often, and raise the standard of existing activities.

The 81 awards covered 30 sports and physical activity opportunities including rugby, archery, golf, cricket, sailing, rowing, gymnastics and netball.

The funding was used for areas such as initial venue hire, purchase of equipment, and coaching costs.

If your club or organisation has a proposal for a new project to develop more sports opportunities, contact Karen Davies, the Vale of Glamorgan Council Sports and Play Development Manager on 01446 704793, to discuss your proposal further.

Brynhill golf latest

Latest Brynhill golf club competition results are as follows: The Barry & District News Cup, four-week eclectic – Winners, Ian Clemo and Glyn Morris, 57 (back nine, 28); runners-up – Julian Hopkins and Richard Pierce, 57 (back nine, 29).

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£19,995

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£4,995

58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTi
5-Dr, silver, 33,000 miles, diesel
£6,495

60 MERCEDES B160 Sport
(Blue Efficiency) In black, 25,000 miles
£10,495

08 LAND ROVER Discovery 3 2.7 Diesel HSE, Automatic, 7-Seater. in silver with black leather, 58,000 miles, high spec **£19,995**

60 MERCEDES B160 Sport (Blue Efficiency). In black, 25,000 miles, on offer at **£10,495**

54 MERCEDES SLK 350 Auto. In silver, with leather, sat nav, air scarf etc, stylish convertible at **£8,995**

10 FORD Mondeo 1.8 TDCi Zetec 5-Dr. In silver, 31,000 miles, usual refinements **£8,995**

11 KIA Venga 2 1.6 Automatic. In red, 20,000 miles, a/c, alloys, p/sensors **£8,695**

11 RENAULT Grand Scenic 1.6 Dynamique 7-seater. In ice blue metallic, 27,000 miles, 1 owner **£8,495**

11 VW Polo 1.2 Diesel (75) SE. In silver, 65,000 miles, fantastic value at **£7,995**

11 FIAT 500 1.2 Pop In white, 17,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,495**

11 SEAT Ibiza Chill 1.4 5-Dr. in white, 1 owner, super looking car **£7,495**

10 RENAULT Scenic 1.5 DCi Privelege. In met silver, 44,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,495**

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61 VW Polo 1.2S (New Shape) 3-Dr. In black, 33,000 miles **£6,995**

58 MAZDA 6 2.0 TS2 Diesel 5-Dr. In black, 44,000 miles **£6,995**

56 FORD S-Max 1.8 Diesel Zetec 7 Seater. In silver, 82,000 miles, very nice example at **£6,995**

11 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression 5-Dr. In electric blue, 32,000 miles, good looking car at **£6,795**

11 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Edge 3-Dr. In silver, 48,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,495**

09 NISSAN Note 1.4 Acenta In met blue, 34,000 miles with sat-nav **£6,495**

58 VAUXHALL Astra 1.9 CDTi Design 5-Dr. In silver, 33,000 miles diesel at **£6,495**

09 FORD Focus 1.8 Zetec 5-Dr. In black, 53,000 miles, 2 owners **£6,495**

08 MINI Cooper. In oxigen blue with white roof, 59,000 miles, 1 owner with stop/start **£6,495**

59 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Extreme 5-Dr. In met red, 51,000 miles, 1 owner **£5,995**

09 HONDA Civic 1.4 DSi SE 5-Dr. In silver, 74,000 miles, superb value **£5,995**

08 SEAT Leon 1.6 Stylance. In met gold, 57,000 miles, stylish family hatch **£5,995**

57 TOYOTA Pruis T-Sport Auto Hybrid. In black, low running costs **£5,995**

57 MINI One 1.4. In yellow, 49,000 miles, low running costs **£5,995**

07 SEAT Leon 1.9 TDi Stylance 5-Dr. In black, 65,000 miles, a/c, alloys etc **£5,995**

07 HONDA Civic 1.8 Sport 5-Dr. In silver, 43,000 miles **£5,995**

06 LANDROVER Freelander 2.0 Diesel Sport 5-Dr. Automatic in black/beige leather, 83,000 miles **£5,995**

55 KIA Sportage 2.0 CRDi XE 5-Dr. In black, 76,000 miles, 1 lady owner, diesel 4x4 at **£5,995**

59 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique. New shape, 62,000 miles, in met silver **£5,695**

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59 KIA Rio 1.4 5-Dr. In black, 1 owner **£4,995**

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07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SXi 5-Dr. In black, 44,000 miles with air con **£4,795**

58 HYUNDAI i10 Comfort 1.2 5-dr. In met grey, 32,000 miles, £30 road tax **£4,695**

56 VW Polo S 1.4 TDi 5-Dr. In met grey, 82,000 miles, £30 road tax **£4,695**

58 FORD FIESTA 1.2 Zetec Climate 3-Dr. In apple green metallic **£4,495**

58 SMART Fortwo Passion MHD Auto In met blue/black two tone, 25,000 miles, 21,000 miles **£4,495**

07 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SXi Automatic. In black, 52,000 miles with a/c **£4,495**

04 MINI Cooper (Pepper). In met blue, 68,000 miles, 1 owner with a/c, very nice example **£4,495**

55 MINI Cooper. In chilli red with black roof, alloys, c/d etc, superb value at **£4,295**

04 VW Beetle 1.9 Diesel. In speed blue, 53,000 miles, 1 owner **£4,295**

09 CHEVROLET Aveo 1.2 LS 5-Dr. In silver, 24,000 miles, fantastic value at **£3,995**

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07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-Dr. In black, 53,000 miles **£3,695**

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05 MAZDA 3 TS2 1.6 5-Dr. In met grey, 71,000 miles **£3,295**

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55 NISSAN Almera SXE TD (136ps) 5-Dr H/Back. In metallic blue, 45,658 miles **£2,995**

05 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 3-Dr. In crystal green, 52,000 miles, alloys, a/c **£2,995**

05 VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Club Auto 5-Dr. In met blue, 65,000 miles **£2,995**

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54 VW Polo 1.2 Twist 3-Dr. In silver, 66,000 miles, low insurance **£2,995**

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51 HONDA Civic 1.6 V-Tec S Automatic 3-Dr. In silver, 53,000 miles, 1 owner **£2,495**

53 ROVER 75 1.8 SE. In met gold, 89,000 miles, nice example at **£1,795**

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11 FIAT 500 1.2 Pop
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11 SEAT Ibiza Chill 1.4 5-Dr.
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BONUS POINTS... But alas no wins for unlucky Cowbridge

WHAT a frustrating week for Cowbridge - last Wednesday we entertained old rivals Llantwit Major at the Athletic Field.

Despite good progress in the SWALEC Bowl, Cowbridge are now in a bit of a dogfight at the lower end of the table.

Following a fine victory against Bryncethin at the beginning of the month, defeats against against table toppers Clwb Rygbi and St Josephs left us one point ahead of Bryncethin and six points ahead of Tonyrefail, both teams suddenly picking up bonus points in the last few games, which makes Wednesday night's three point defeat bitterly disappointing.

At 9-13 down at half time and 9-19 down with 20 minutes to go,

Cowbridge stormed back with two tries from drives from line outs - one by Ryan Hall and one by Rhys James, sandwiched by a Llantwit penalty, leaving the the score 19-22 with four minutes to go.

Despite again driving over the Llantwit line twice, the referee disallowed tries that seemed perfectly good.

So, a bonus point but the boys deserved a win. We cannot depend on Bryncethin and Tonyrefail dropping points so there is only one solution - win our final three games.

Which brings us to Saturday when Llandaff were the visitors to the Athletic Field.

Cowbridge were missing captain Luke Boys and were led by second row Matt Wright.

The boys got off to the worst possible start with the twinkle-toed Llandaff outside half gliding over for a converted try after just two minutes. Not to be outdone, Cowbridge responded two minutes later with a fine try by No.8 Ryan Hall.

From the kick off the pack secured the ball and Ryan burst down the blind side and jinked through the visitors' defence to power over. Center Carwyn Morgan added the extras.

Cowbridge were soon back under pressure in their 22 and yet again the Llandaff No 10 jinked through the Cowbridge defence to score his second try after nine minutes.

Not to be outdone, eight minutes later a superb 60 metre kick by Carwyn Morgan took Cowbridge into the Llandaff 22 and after several forward phases the ball popped up to Morgan who sprinted over under the posts, converting his own try.

This was all breathtaking stuff and a lovely run out of defence by full back Richie Howson resulted in a penalty and despite losing the lineout from the kick Cowbridge soon added to their total with a Morgan penalty.

A missed penalty was soon followed by a harsh yellow card for dynamic flanker Rhod Walker who was adjudged to have illegally dumped the Llandaff No. 10.

Llandaff missed the penalty and Morgan ran out of defence, the ball passing through the hands of No 10 Alex Jones, centre Nick Davies and finally out to Richie Howson who cut inside to sprint over for a lovely try.

Half time Cowbridge 22, Llandaff 12.

Cowbridge might have thought they had the game sown up but Llandaff had different ideas. Veteran Dewi Edwards replaced Richie Howson.

Good defence by Alex Jones and scrum half Tom James and some barnstorming runs by Geraint Thomas, Rhod Walker and Tom James took Cowbridge up to the 10 metre line followed by a Cowbridge penalty up to the 22.

A superb take and drive by captain Matt Wright should have led to a try but with the Cowbridge scrum beginning to creak Llandaff won the ensuing scrum five and broke out of their 22.

A kick by their No.10 and a fumble in defence by Cowbridge led to Llandaff's third try. Matt Logsdon came on but with Cowbridge seeming to have gone to sleep Llandaff soon scored their fourth try from a tap penalty.

It was becoming all to easy for Llandaff as their dominant scrum provided plenty of ball and after 26 minutes scored their fifth try, making the score 22-29.

With Cowbridge living off scraps and Dewi Edwards yellow carded for a supposed deliberate knock despite the ball going backwards (so he said), it was going to take something special to rescue the game - and so it was with a trademark try by No 10 Alex Jones.

Taking the ball just inside the Llandaff half he split the visitors' defence with a dummy and then showed great pace to outstrip any would be tacklers to score under the posts.

Morgan showed nerves of steel to convert to make it 29-29. Llandaff were soon back in the Cowbridge 22 as the referee blew for full time.

So, a draw and tries bonus point for Cowbridge – a game that at one point we looked like winning comfortably and then losing, so a draw seems a fair result.

We now have two games left. Last night (Wednesday) we welcomed Abercwmboi and then have to wait until Saturday, May 10 for the final game away at Tonyrefail.

Finally the youth are playing a top of the table clash against Taffs Well at the Arms Park on May 9, kick off at 7pm and a coach will be leaving the club at 5.45pm.

There are limited places for supporters on the coach – a list is on the notice board at the club so if you want to go get your name on quickly. The youth have played some great rugby this season and this should be a fantastic end to the season.

The club was shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Tom Clarke on active service in Afghanistan.

Tom played for the minis, juniors and also Cowbridge first team. He was a tough, uncompromising player on the pitch but a perfect gentleman off it.

He will leave a huge hole in the lives of his wife Angie, parents Bruce and Denise, brother and sister in law, Simon and Sally, and all of his many friends.

As the best of the best, Tom, we salute you!

RV/RK

Cowbridge under-13s turn on the style

After a four week Easter break, Cowbridge under-13s got their season back under way with a good away win against a strong Llantwit Fardre team.

It would be fair to say the first 20 minutes were frustrating for coaches and players alike. Despite sustained Cowbridge pressure, over complication of moves and handling errors by the Cowbridge team kept the score at 0-0.

Halfway through the first half, Jack Dixon the Cowbridge left winger, ran three quarters the length of the field only to be denied a try by a foot in touch.

Eventually Cowbridge settled to the task and having being camped on the Fardre line some slick hands from the backs put Dan O'Sullivan in for the first try of the game. I.Williams converted.

Llantwit came back strongly at Cowbridge and won themselves an attacking scrum five metres out from the Cowbridge line. Some great defence from the Cowbridge front row resulted in an excellent turnover on their own line.

The Cowbridge backs showed great adventure by running this ball and two superb passes one from I.Williams and the other from Evan Thomas put Harry Ridge clear. Ridge ran the length of the field hugging the touch line to outpace the covering Llantwit defence to score; Llantwit Fardre 0, Cowbridge 12.

Cowbridge's third and final try of the half came from their full back Rowan Allin. The forwards gathered the ball from the restart and made some hard yards into the Llantwit half.

I.Williams fed Thomas his half back partner who set his backs off on a slick passing move. Following a number of handling errors in the first half the backs showed what skills they were capable off with an excellent backs try. I.Williams converted to make the halftime score Llantwit Fardre 0, Cowbridge 19.

The second half started in much the same way as the first with a number of elementary mistakes by the Cowbridge team. The two packs were fighting a war of attrition in the middle of the park, with the Cowbridge front row gaining an upper hand on their much bigger opposition.

From one of these rucks the ball popped out on the Cowbridge side for R.Williams, the Cowbridge Number 8, to regather the ball. Williams showed some great strength by breaking a number of first up tackles and then showed his considerable speed by managing to score in the corner.

Llantwit did not let their heads drop and came back strongly at Cowbridge resulting in a break away try by their speedy centre.

Following some hesitation in the Cowbridge backs the centre managed to fly hack the ball towards the Cowbridge line and a foot race ensued. The Llantwit back showed his pace to gather the ball and touch down.

Llantwit continued their pressure and contained Cowbridge deep inside their own 22 for the next five minutes. However, following another great turnover by the Cowbridge back row, R.Williams picked up the ball just inside his own 22 and spirited the length of the field to score a solo break away try.

The game's final try went to Fardre following another mix up in the Cowbridge midfield, making the final score Llantwit Fardre 10, Cowbridge 29.

The game was played in good spirit, a tough contest just what Cowbridge needed in preparation for their Blues Cup semi-final this weekend.

GJ

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Town lift Barry Cup!

COWBRIDGE TOWN FC won a dramatic match with Cardiff Airport on penalties last Sunday, and in the process lifted the Barry Cup for the first time in their history.

LIFTING THE TROPHY!

From the first minutes the match was an enthralling encounter, as fired up Town took the game to their opponents with grit and determination.

It was an approach which was necessary, after Cowbridge had suffered two defeats to the same opposition this season, and haven't enjoyed success over Cardiff Airport in their two recent seasons in the VOGAFL Premier league.

Despite their underdog tag however, Town made far much more of the running in the opening quarter. Lloyd Lewis, Luke Degabriel and Craig Burrows sparkled in midfield, offering their side complete control of the opening exchanges.

After narrowly failing to convert two gilt edged chances Town finally took a moral boosting lead through the finishing instinct of striker Ali Maurice, who slid the ball home after good work from Jack Gavin on the left hand side.

Cardiff Airport seemed shell-shocked at Cowbridge Town's ferocity, and struggled to exert any sort of control on the match. It was thus doubly disappointing for Cowbridge Town that they conceded an equaliser from a soft free kick which luckily bounced into the path of the onrushing striker to poke home the leveller.

The goal was a blow to Town and the rest of the first half became a far more even affair, despite neither side carving out any more significant chances.

The second half began brightly for Cardiff Airport, who looked to press on and find the win which they would have expected pre-match.

They got their rewards for their endeavour when a well-executed ball down the channel was collected by the winger, who squared the ball neatly for a tap-in from the striker to give his side a 2-1 lead.

Many at Jenner Park may have started to believe that the inevitable was imminent, but nobody told that to the 11 players in Cowbridge colours. With the pitch sapping energy from the legs Cowbridge continued to play with ferocity, determination and with no small amount of class as they chased an unfancied equaliser.

Despite their endeavour, as the clock ticket down to 90 minutes it seemed almost a certainty that it would be put down as a brave defeat from Town.

However, as the ball reached the feet of goalscorer Ali Maurice the striker lifted a neat ball over the back four into the path of substitute wing back Jack Farrington. Farrington took it well in his stride, and fired a clinical left footed shot past the near post of the Cardiff Airport stopper to send the Cowbridge Town players into rapturous celebrations.

The final whistle almost immediately followed to signal the end of 90 minutes, with extra time needed to decide the outcome of the Cup.

Renowned for their fitness Cowbridge Town would have fancied their chances but Cardiff Airport started brightly in the early stages, forcing Cowbridge Town to defend well to keep the score level. Cowbridge maintained a threat meanwhile, but after a spell of decent pressure on the Town box Airport won a penalty, and with it a chance to take a significant step forwards towards winning the Cup.

However, Town refused to lie down, with Cowbridge goalkeeper Ian Bavey guessing the right way and palming the penalty behind for a corner kick. Bouyed by their 'keeper's brilliance Town pushed forwards and earnt a dangerous free kick on the left hand side.

Wing back Jack Gavin produced a typically accurate cross which was met oncemore by Town goalscorer Maurice to send Cowbridge into a 3-2 lead in extra time.

Perhaps sensing how close they were to the Cup the following minutes were frantic for Town, with a slight change in shape producing confusion in the side. Airport, clinical all day, didn't need a second invitation and dramatically clawed themselves back once more in this topsy turvy affair.

The heavy pitch meant many players were now out on their feet, but the intensity didn't drop and it took heroic blocks from both Matthew Little and Daniel Hughes to keep the scores level and send the match into a penalty shoot-out.

Despite the emotion of the game both sides began with three excellent penalties apiece, but as nerves jangled Cardiff Airport missed their third from the spot to give Cowbridge the advantage.

However, a nervy reply from Town skipper Craig Burrows kept the scores level. Ian Bavey in the Town goal wasn't done with his penalty saving heroics however, and kept out the fifth airport kick to give Cowbridge Town stalwart Daniel Hughes the chance to give his side the most unfancied of victories.

As many in the Town line-up couldn't bear to watch, Hughes sent the 'keeper the wrong way to give Cowbridge Town FC the most notable form of silverwear in their history.

As his players ran the length of the pitch to celebrate the fans gave their heroes a much deserved standing ovation.

Cowbridge Town: Bavey, Rollings, Little, Hughes, Gavin, Pinchbeck (Farrington), Degabriel, Lewis, Dimopolous (Phillips), Maurice.

MR